Wednesday, September 12, 2012 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 276 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

# Puno breaks silence, quits

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**NEWS**

**'Karen'** now a storm / A7

**NPC** may bolt from LP coalition, says Sotto / A2

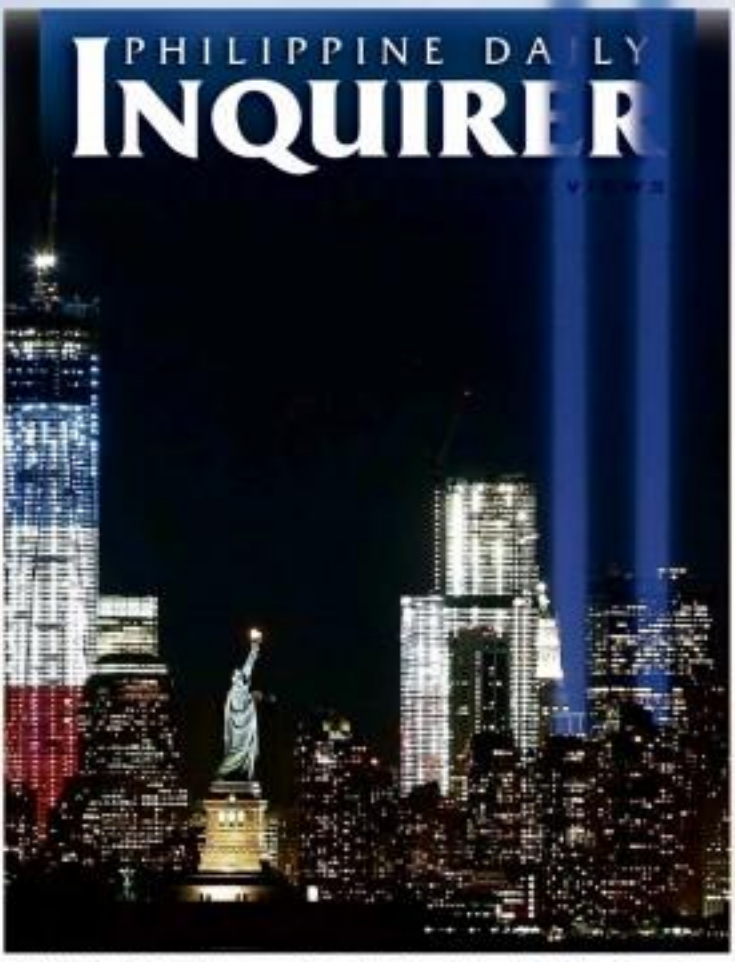
**BUSINESS**

**Bangko** Sentral warns speculators; peso at 4-year high / B1

**LIFESTYLE**

**How** to introduce Robredo, the public servant, to your kids / C3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



11 YEARS AFTER 9/11 The Tribute in Light, an art installation, illuminates the Statue of Liberty and One World Trade Center, again New York's tallest building, during memorial rites marking the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, on the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. AFP, TONY KARUMBA

## Palace: President coddling no one

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday dropped Rico E. Puno after his controversial shooting range buddy got caught in yet another storm following the death of his immediate boss, Jesse Robredo.

Mr. Aquino on Tuesday accepted the resignation of Puno as undersecretary in the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the aftermath of a furor over his alleged "raids," purportedly to locate state papers upon the President's directive, on the offices of Robredo and as an attempt to enter the apartment of Robredo after his plane crashed on Aug. 18.

Puno kept silent through out the furor until yesterday when he sent his resignation letter.

"As undersecretary for peace and order in the DILG, I am entrusted with duties and responsibilities that involve strict confidence, secu-

PUNO / A10

## Personal loss not politics in 9/11 rites

NEW YORK—Is it time for a different kind of Sept. 11?

Americans marked the 11th anniversary of the 2001 attacks on Tuesday with relatively low-key ceremonies that reflected a gradual dampening of passions around the fateful day.

Victims' families and others were joined to gather and grieve at Ground Zero, the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, for the first time after the emotional turning point of last year's 10th anniversary.

And in New York, there was a sense that it was a season of change and moving forward. It followed a bittersweet breakthrough on a fi-

PERSONAL / A13

## Leni won't be at Senate inquiry: Let me grieve

By Cathy Yamsuan in Manila and Jonas Cabiles Soltas in Naga City

PLEADING she wants to grieve in peace, the widow of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo has declined an invitation to appear in a Senate inquiry on Friday on Undersecretary Rico Puno's alleged shenanigans.

Leni Robredo also denied an ABS-CBN news report that she had told the network's interviewer that Puno was under investigation by her husband before the secretary of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) died in a plane crash on Aug. 18 off Masbate.

"I did not say in any inter-

LENI / A10

## Mar: No results of crash probe yet

OUTGOING Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas warned the public against making their own conclusions based on "speculative" statements by certain civil aviation personnel ruling out foul play in the Aug. 18 plane crash that killed Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

"What was expressed in the media [yesterday] were personal conjectures and must not in any way be construed as reflective of the ongoing investigation," Roxas said in a statement on Tuesday evening.

He was referring to the remarks made by retired Capt. John Andrews, who the secretary said, was not involved in the investigation of the crash.

On Monday, Andrews, deputy director general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), told a joint congressional committee assessing the agency's performance that the plane crash was an accident that was main-

MAR / A10

## *P-Noy likes it 'hot' this Christmas*

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Aquino plans to have something especially "hot" this Christmas.

Before anyone gets the idea that the country's most eligible bachelor—who has had no steady date since his last reported squeeze, Manila-based Korean television host Grace Lee—is thinking of someone special, Mr. Aquino is quick to knock such ideas down.

P-NOY / A13

DISPLEASED President Aquino and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima attend the Bureau of Immigration's anniversary rites in Manila. At right is BI Commissioner Ricardo A. David Jr.

ANNIVERSARY 'BASH'

## President scolds BI officials

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Aquino was not in a congratulatory mood yesterday when he was invited as guest of honor to the 72nd anniversary of the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

He blasted his hosts for "conspiring" in the escape of former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and his brother Mario, and other criminal elements.

Minutes on words as BI's main office in Intramuros, Mr. Aquino warned erring officials they would be dealt with the full force of the law.

"Let's accept it: The Bureau of Immigration is one of the agencies embroiled in controversial issues in the past years. So pardon me if I take this opportunity to present matters that caused my dismay, and more importantly our fears", he began his speech aired over state-run dzRB.

Then Mr. Aquino smiled off

PRESIDENT / A13

## Gov't issues new mining rules: It's a high-wire act

By DJ Yap

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday issued the implementing guidelines of President Aquino's new mining policy, which, it said, tilted more toward preserving the environment than earning government revenues from metals and minerals.

"It's a right-wire act, a balancing of different interests," Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said of the implementing rules

GOV'T / A10

**Pilots facing almost P1B in new fines for tailings leak** / A21

Second FRONTPAGE

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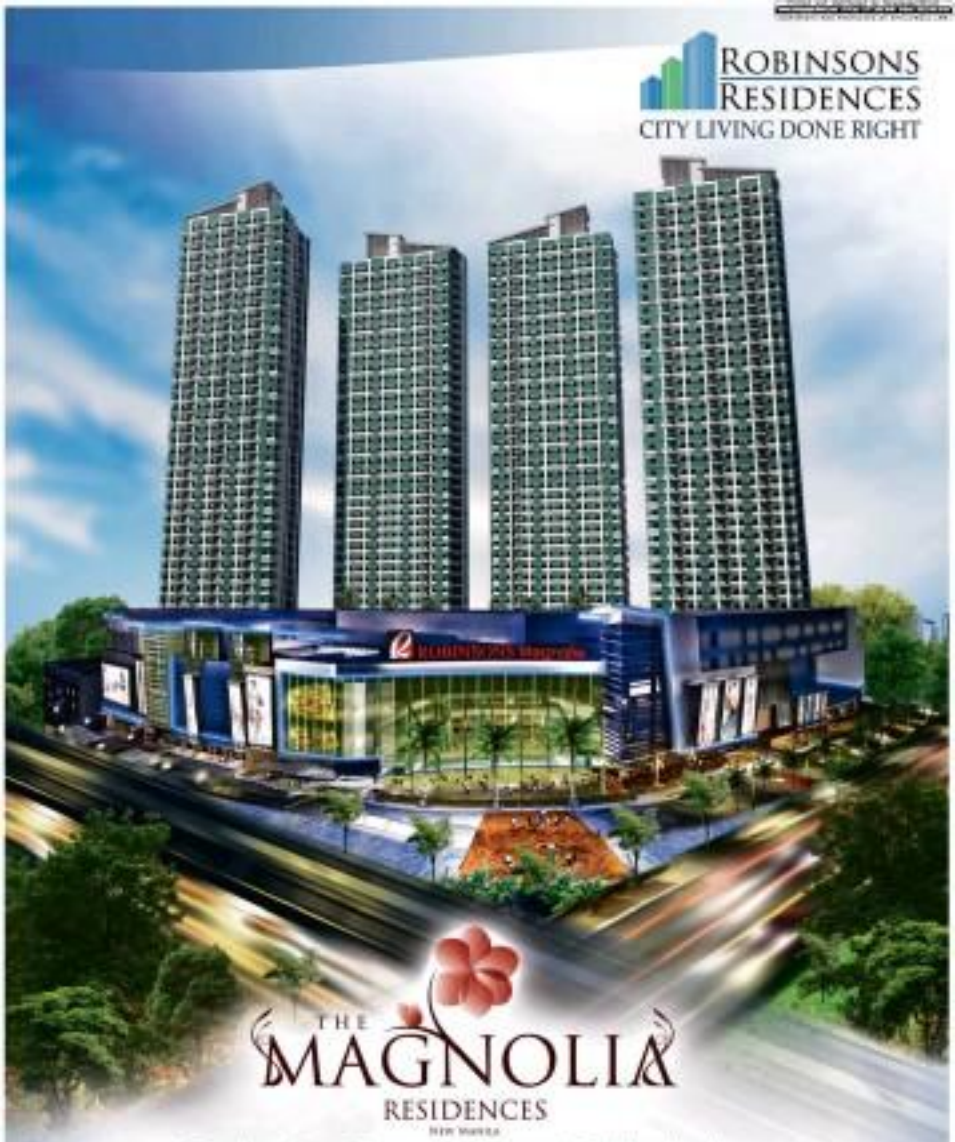

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# Taiwanese detainee dies of dengue

CAMP Vicente Lim, Laguna—A Taiwanese detainee at the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) police headquarters here died while two other Taiwanese detainees have been confined to hospital suffering from dengue fever.

The detainee, identified as Kuo Ming Fo, 58, suffered a cardiac arrest last Sunday, according to the doctors at the Calamba Medical Center (CMC).

But in a text message yesterday, Supt. Cleto Mananggin, a doctor and chief of the camp's medical dispensary, said Fo was also "considered" to have contracted dengue after his platelet count dropped below normal when the Taiwanese was first examined at the camp's medical facility.

Mananggin confirmed that two other Taiwanese detainees, Hung Kai Hui, 23, and Chen Fo Hsu, 29 are confined at the CMC after they were found positive dengue fever.

The Taiwanese were among the 387 Taiwanese and Chinese nationals arrested in a large-scale operation carried out by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission and the Naval Intelligence and Security Force against a suspected cybercrime and human trafficking syndicate on Aug. 23.

They were arrested in Quezon City, Marikina City and Cubao and Ayala Ctr. Road but because of their sheer number, were detained at the police training gym in the camp.

Mananggin and Senior Supt. Ronald Ventura, the regional police chief of staff, have both denied that there was an outbreak of dengue, although the camp and its surrounding villages were immediately fumigated on Monday and Tuesday. —Marlowe Erwin, Inquirer Southern Luzon

## Correction

IN THE SEPT. 10 ISSUE, a story on Page A12—"Thai duo 'fire tax' a boon to Thailand?"—misstated the revenue that Thailand generated from excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products based on a unitary tax structure in 2011. The revenue amounted to 57-billion Thai baht—not 57-million Thai baht.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 800 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City, fax this 897-27-93/95; e-mail <editor.inquirer@inquirer.com.ph>.

need a job?

# AFP modernization short of ₱10B

THE AFP modernization program for 2013 is still P10 billion short of funds, senators overseeing the implementation of National Defense's P128.3-billion budget noted yesterday.

Sen. Pemphil Zoilo, chair of the Senate committee on finance, told officials led by Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin to find a regular source of funding for the five-year P75.1-billion AFP modernization program or else it will have to compete yearly with other items in the national budget.

Drilon suggested the AFP get some of its military reservation lands to privatize use in order to generate funds for modernization.

Gazmin told the committee that the Armed Forces needs P75.1 billion...or P15 billion annually for the next five years...to get up "a minimum credible defense posture" at par at least with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Discussions on the military's modernization program came amid an ongoing row with giant neighbor China over territories in the West Philippine Sea.

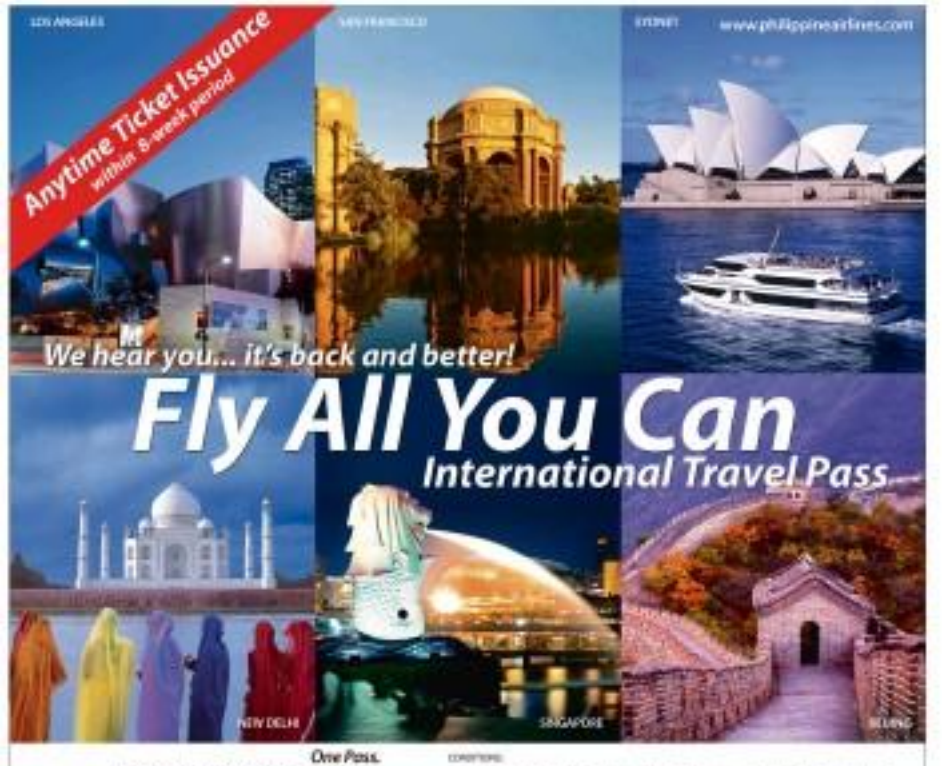
"The modernization program requires P15 billion a year for the next five years.

"As of now, the source of the modernization fund will be the General Appropriations Act for the next five years," Drilon told reporters after his committee's hearing.

"But for 2013, only P5 billion is found in the regular budget and so P10 billion of the modernization program will be placed in the supplemental appropriation—meaning we will have to look for funding," he added.

Defense officials said they were hoping the passage of the AFP Modernization Act would facilitate the release of the remaining P10 billion, which they will use to buy new military hardware. But Drilon said the mere enactment of the law wouldn't be of much help to that regard.

"The modernization law passage cannot be the authority for releasing that P10 billion because if there are no fresh/other chair what is already identified in the budget of expenditures and sources of funds you still cannot release that P10 billion," Drilon said. Norman Bordadora

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# 'Karen' now a storm

By DJ Yap

THE ACTIVE low pressure area spotted east of the Visayas has developed into a tropical storm locally named "Karen" while a shallow low pressure area was observed in the west-northwestern sea of the country, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday.

Karen (international name: "Sanba") was seen 600 kilometers east of Guiuan town in Eastern Samar, packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center, and gustiness of 80 kph, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

It was moving northward at 15 kph, Pagasa said.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, a shallow low pressure area was observed 370 kilometers off Basco.

The tropical storm is seen to bring moderate to heavy rains, from 15-20 mm per hour within its 500-km diameter, the weather bureau said.

According to the Pagasa forecast, Karen is expected to be 600 km east of Basco by Wednesday morning.


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# Solon wants disputed islands turned into tourist spots

WILL NOT turn disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea into a tourist destination.

An administration congressman made that bold suggestion yesterday in response to reports that China was planning to do the same in the Spratly islands, parts of which are being claimed by five other countries, including the Philippines.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez made the proposal during plenary deliberations on the Department of Tourism's 2013 budget. But Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez did not sound very optimistic.

"This is not just a tourism issue. This is a national security issue so we would leave that to the people who understand the implications of whatever kind of move would be made," Jimenez told reporters.

"Even if you just want to swim there, you would have to seek permission from concerned authorities because the area is sensitive," he added in Filipino.

In a letter to President Aquino, Rodriguez asked the administration to "speed up plans to develop the Spratly group of islands into a tourist destination, showcasing its pristine beaches, coral reefs and potential diving spots."

"May I also suggest the last week-long of the plans to build a 100-meter concrete wharf and breaching ramp on the coral-ringed Ifag, sea island, the second largest (Island) in the Spratlys and the biggest occupied by the Philippines in the contested region," the congressman wrote.

Apart from the Spratlys, other islands in the area should also be developed into tourist spots and the Panatag (Bajo) part of a cruise route in the West Philippine Sea, he said.

Rodriguez described his proposals as "nonmilitary developments and therefore, noncontroversial acts."

"We should act soon, otherwise, it may be too late to defend our sovereignty over the Spratly Islands and the Panatag Shoal," he said.

Christine F. Zaguirre

**Inst Enrolment of Foreign Retirees is up by 11%**
This year, for January to July, various field yield. Auf gloss enrollment is up by 43%, while withdrawals from the program are down by 20%, and net enrollment is up by 91%.

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For prizes and other inquiries, please coordinate with the Marketing Department. Client Relations at Tel No. (+63-2) 645-1410.

**In-House Briefing Schedule**

| | |
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| For prospective Retirees | - September 27, October 25 & November 22 |
| For prospective Marketers | - September 14, October 11 & November 08 |

Please confirm attendance with the Marketing Department - Client Relations Division at Tel No. (+63-2) 645-1410.

**PRA Retiree Reward Program Winners**
Retirees may have the chance to be rewarded just by enrolling in the PRA program and becoming a PRA Retiree member. The following are the names drawn as winners of the 2012 Retiree Rewards Program:

January - Cheng Mingfu (SRRV-NHA 01 0775)
February - Engco Aleta (SRRV-NHA 020027)
March – Max Jung (SRRV-NHA 020074)
1st Qtr – Wei Jun Young (SRRV-NHA 020074)
April – Kakuteki Nobuhide (SRRV-NHA 020400)
May – Shiro Okuse (SRRV-NHA 020780)
June – Gordon Keith Ashford (SRRV-NHA 020966)
July – Wu Xinhong (SRRV-NHA 021 257)
2nd Qtr – Peter Wai Seitinger (SRRV-NHA 020 651)
1st Sem – Jung Kwangyong (SRRV-NHA 020 966)

For prizes and other inquiries, please coordinate with the Client Relations Division (CRD), Marketing Department at Tel. No. 645-1410.

**SRRV Smile- PRA to Make Visa Process**
Also to implementation last year the SRRV Smile now accounts for 66% of retiree enrollment from May 2011 to July 2012. SMILE SRRV only requires a US$20,000 non-deposit remitted for and of term obligations for applicants 35 years old and above. The other SRRV Options are SRRV Classic, SRRV Courtesy and SRRV Human Touch.

**City of Makati as "Best of NAIAH 2012" Awardee**
Last July 2012, PRA gave the Best of NAIAH 2012 to the City of Makati for being the most retirement and ageing friendly city based on the criteria of the World Health Organization (WHO). MAYOR Jejomar Binay Jr. recently received the said award from PRA.

**PRA Co-Investment Fund**
The PRA is looking for projects in the medical and allied medical industries, or retirement-related establishments/facilities in which the PRA is willing to invest 51% of the Fund or 15% of the project equity whichever is lower.

For more information, please coordinate with the Admin and Finance Department at (632) 511-0.

**SRRV Courtesy: To include foreign nationals who worked in Philippine Government Institutions Abroad**
PRA is expanding the SRRV Courtesy to include foreign nationals who previously worked with international recognized Philippine jurisdictional i.e. Philippine Embassies, Consular Offices and other related Philippine government agencies. Retirees should be foreigner-level hires who occupied supervisory and/or managerial positions.

**SRRVees Holders May Opt to become Philhealth Members**
PRA Retirees may now become Philhealth members via the Individual Paying Program (IPP). Interested SRRV holders are advised to visit any Philhealth Provincial Office nearest their residence.

**Life Care Residences – now an Accredited PRA Retirement Facility**
Life Care Residences located in Scandinavian Heights, Cebu City has recently been accredited as a PRA Accredited facility to serve retirees who opts to stay in a short and long term care residence, with independent and assisted living program in the Visayan Region. Its proprietor, Anne Goodwin is a Resource Speaker in the event Retirement Communities World Asia 2012 which will be held in Hong Kong on October 2012. She may be reached thru mobile number (0917) 7177500 for more information.


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**PRA to Publish a Book on Winning Entries of the 1st PRA National Essay Writing Competition**
Retirees in his official winning entries of the recently successful 1st PRA National Essay Writing Competition themed "Dear Foreign Retiree: Why You Should Retire in My Town" are to be published and more available to the public soon.

**1st PRA International Essay Writing Contest**
After the successful local essay writing competition held last year, PRA will be launching another essay competition this November for foreign nationals and Better Filipinos (OFWs/immigrants) currently based abroad, with the theme "Why I Will Retire in the Philippines".

**BeU with the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA)**
The PRA and the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to, among others, promote the development, growth and application of retirement enterprises including retirement homes through franchising.

**International Promotional Campaigns**
The PRA is preparing for upcoming international promotional campaigns to entice more foreign nationalities consider the Philippines as their retirement destination.

PRA is working at the following exhibitions & expositions:

- "We China (USS/AM Expo in Nanning, China (September)
- "Hawaii Senior Expo (September)
- "Korea Emigration Fair in Seoul & Busan, Korea (October)
- "Briefings for Retirees in Jeju Island, Korea (October)
- "Retirement Communities World Asia 2012 in Hong Kong (October)
- "Long Stay Fair 2012 in Tokyo, Japan (November)
- "Country Marketing in China (October)

If interested to join, coordinate with the Marketing Department.

**Bringing 1980 Incentives to Cebu 2012**
PRA is submitting to the agencies concerned, an unfolding more aggressive package of incentives for retirees.

**Compulsory Registration of Retirement and Accommodation Facilities**
Register your retirement accommodation facilities, whether commercial or non-profit with PRA in accordance with Executive Order No. 1037.

**Retirees' Social Dynamics Activities**
PRA Gibely Day, Traditional Lutong Pinoy to be hosted by Festival Luxe in partnership with Mayon Kultura Foundation October 3, 2012 at Park Metro Pasay City 1:00-6:00 p.m.
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# Fugitive ex-gov faces new raps–falsifying passport

By Nina Calleja

FUGITIVE ex-governor Joel Reyes, who fled the country to escape arrest in connection with the murder of broadcaster and environmentalist Gerardo Ortega, is facing another charge for using a tampered passport.

Michaella Ortega, the eldest daughter of the slain Ortega, yesterday filed a complaint against Reyes with the Iloilo City Prosecutor's Office for violations of the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, or Republic Act No. 8239, an offense punishable by six to 12 years in prison.

"As part of our quest for justice and in order to see to it that the guilty are held accountable for their crimes, not family ends up self as the complainant, so filing a complaint against [Reyes]," Michaella said in a statement.

The complaint was based on press reports that Reyes managed to slip out of the country on March 10, 2011, on a Cebu Pacific flight to Vietnam, using a passport under the name of Joseph Lim Pe.

Reyes had altered Pe's passport by replacing the data page with another containing the former governor's photo and a different signature.

The alleged passport tampering was confirmed by assistant secretary Jaime Victor Ledda of the Department of Foreign Affairs in a letter dated Aug. 30, 2012.

Michaella said the department of the man carrying Pe's passport was reflected on the Cebu Pacific passenger manifest and has also been confirmed by the Vietnam immigration office.

Reyes and his brother Simon Cotas, Palawan, Mayor Mario Reyes Jr., have standing arrest warrants for being the alleged masterminds in the murder of Ortega, a hard-hitting radio broadcaster in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, who was killed on Jan. 24, 2011.

A bounty of P2 million has been put up for information that would lead to the arrest of the former Palawan governor.

The Reyes brothers managed to leave the country despite an order from Justice Secretary Leila de Lima directing all immigration officers to be on the lookout for them.

A hold departure order against the two was also issued by Judge Angelo Arcadio of the Puerto Princesa Regional Trial Court.

"It is quite apparent that [Reyes'] interest now extends across as to fail to face the allegations made against him to the court of law where perhaps he may be able to prove his claimed innocence," Michaella said.

She said Reyes' actions made it clear that he would do anything to avoid trial.

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# No spokesperson for SC chief, just communicator

By Christine O. Avendaño

THREE weeks into her new job, Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno has yet to designate an official spokesperson for the Supreme Court.

Instead, she has appointed a so-called "communicator" and a "resource person" for judicial reform.

Deputy court administrator Jenal Villanueva introduced him-self to reporters last week as Sereno's communicator for judicial reform.

Yesterday, Quezon City regional trial court Judge Ma. Filomena Singh introduced herself as the high court's "batsilerasource person on judicial reform."

Villanueva told a briefing yesterday that Sereno wanted people to know about the unreported judicial reforms that were being undertaken in the courts and this was why he and Singh were designated to convey them to the media.

SERENO

## Judicial service

He said the Chief Justice felt there was a need to address perceptions of the judiciary being unable to deliver justice immediately to the people "because at the end of the day, judicial service is not about the Supreme Court coming up with decisions but also to cater to the expectations of the people."

"The way I understand her, as far as the Chief Justice is concerned the SC and the entire judiciary is just not about the people who must, it but also the people who come to you," Villanueva said.

Last week, Villanueva announced the first judicial reform approved under the Sereno court—an administrative directive requiring all courts in the country to allow witnesses to submit affidavits in lieu of oral testimony, thus cutting short the testimony time and speeding up the resolution of cases.

Singh yesterday talked about two other judicial reforms now being undertaken—the new procedures on small claims cases and the new guidelines for litigation in Quezon City court to that promise to speed up the resolution of cases as well.

Explaining Singh's appointment, Villanueva said Sereno saw it best to tap "a frontliner to be able to inform the public about updates on our ongoing judicial reforms."

Villanueva explained that he will be the one to "share what judicial reform programs are adopted and approved" by the Supreme Court while it will be the role of Singh to explain the "experiences and results" of their programs.

"You have to speak from the point of view of the implementers," Singh said, noting that trial court judges often complained whenever a judicial program is introduced because they were not consulted if these would work based on what they know from their experience.

"This signals a change that we will listen to the people actually implementing these projects so from the start there will be no mistakes and if there is a need for corrections there will be a voice on this," she said.

Asked whether Sereno will be designating a spokesperson to convey decisions and resolutions approved by the high court to its regular Tuesday en banc sessions, Villanueva said the Chief Justice would eventually have a system in place.

## System in place

But in the "meantime" the approved decisions and resolutions of the high court will be released by the Supreme Court public information office (PIO) currently headed by Gino Gonzales, who was designated to the post until the end of October, he said.

Singh said that Sereno was most studying the "plurality" of the PIO.

"Please give her time to weigh her options in that aspect," Villanueva said, assuring reporters that the Chief Justice was "very much" aware of the media's queries about en banc decisions and resolutions.

A few days after the assumed her post, Sereno released a statement to the media saying that she would not be giving media interviews and that it was better for the Supreme Court to be heard through its decisions.

She said she wanted to take the high court back to the days of "dignified silence."

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ANTI-'EPAL MOVE

# Remember their faces, forget their names on poll day

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SINGOOD let epal politicians' posters and TV ads? Remember their faces and don't vote for them come Election Day in May next year.

Concerned by a loophole in the law that disallows premature campaigning, by candidates because they like their oscillation of candidacy, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) could only offer this piece of advice to voters.

Antipolitician had allowed premature campaigning, "to subtly or in a lesser manner," Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said. "The best way to deal with these epals [is to] remember their faces now and forget their names come election day," Brillantes made the statement yesterday via his Twitter account @ChairSBrillantes.

The poll chief said that like the rest of the nation, he too was appalled by the pestilence of billboards and posters from this or that personality whose obvious intent is to win by an election year head start.

"Epal posters cheapen our electoral process as of these candidates are supercilious and somehow feel entitled to be subservient," said Brillantes.

Epal is a play on the words mapapel, Filipino slang for a noisy drunkard or attention-grabber, and kapal or someone who is thick-skinned.

The poll chief noted that with no law prohibiting the putting up of posters bearing the likenesses of would-be candidates, the Comelec could not run after them prior to the campaign period.

Brillantes said that to curb this practice Congress must enact a law prohibiting and punishing premature campaigning.

"With this, I strongly support and urge the passage of the bill of my good friend Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago on premature campaigning," said Brillantes.

Earlier, Santiago filed an unnumbered measure that penalizes politicians who donate credit for community projects bankrolled by taxpayer money.

The senator last week said she was filing this week a bill that would require would-be candidates to file a certificate of intent with the public office (Copc) six months before the actual filing of certificates of candidacy required by the Comelec.

The bill would bar public officials from engaging in self-promotion or premature campaigning during the months leading up to the election campaign period, usually three months before Election Day.

# Need weather info? Call your congressman

IF YOU can't access the weather bureau during when disastrous threaten, your congressional representative may soon be able to give you all the weather information you need.

Under a proposed agreement between the House of Representatives and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the weather bureau will regularly provide the House secretary general with weather related information.

These include bulletins, warnings and advisories related to typhoons and floods, as well as other weather- and disaster-related information that could affect people's safety and welfare.

The House secretary general will disseminate the Pagasa data to all House members. The lawmakers, in turn, will directly transmit weather bulletins, warnings and advisories to their districts.

The proposed memorandum of agreement noted that prompt dissemination of weather information was crucial to prevent or minimize the devastating effects of natural calamities. Lawmakers "play a key position to help spread the data, it said.

"One major component of disaster mitigation from natural hazards is fast and effective dissemination and communication of weather information, warnings, and advisories," it said.

"Members of the House of Representatives have fast and direct access to communities and constituents in their districts, and could 'tie-in' help in transmitting typhoon- and flood-related advisories and warnings," it said.

Pagasa's legal division is still reviewing the agreement, which is why it has not been signed yet, said Aglaun party-list Rep. Angelo Palmones, who suggested the idea last year.

Jaella R. Ichaverria

# ICT conglomerate ventures into BPO

A BOOMING mobile Internet market and explosive growth in social media usage worldwide have prompted the publicly-listed Information Capital Technology Ventures, Inc. (ICTV) to venture into the lucrative, multibillion-dollar business process outsourcing (BPO) market with the launch of its digital media platform, SowPlanet.TV.

In a press statement, ICTV said it is set to plunge into the $25.5-billion BPO global market, including the $11-billion Philippine market, to offer its consumer mobile Web, digital media and business productivity solutions.

The ICT conglomerate said it will soon start round-the-clock operations for its new digital media brand, providing outsourced services to device manufacturers, Web publishing, digital media and site management for enterprises, as well as allied business productivity solutions, such as electronic data management, credit and collection, and IT resource management. SowPlanet.TV said it offers responsive web design-based site development, creative multimedia authoring, video broadcast and upload facilities, and editorial and content services for enterprise customers seeking to maximize their marketing or public affairs promotions.

"This is the best time for ICTV to enter the business (BPO) market because more and SowPlanet as an exceptional solution in making us surprises social and mobile, and should soon gain ground in the local and global markets," said ICTV chair Thomas Aquino. The innovation speaks for itself and we expect the result to take notice."

SowPlanet.TV said it builds websites through a technique called responsive web design (RWD), which adjusts automatically to provide optimal viewing experience on any computing device, be it a desktop PC, or mobile phone, tablet or notebook PC. Using just one design, the responsive website can be optimally viewed on any device.

"It means in the burgeoning mobile Web, providing a seamless experience across multiple devices is crucial, it said.

"It's a paradigm shift. Gone are the days when we see the functionality and appearance of websites are more desktop PC browsers," said ICTV president for collaborative services Angelo Timoteo Diaz de Rivera. "Today, it is imperative that mobility testing is done using mobile devices or else you lose a huge chunk of your Web audience."

# Personal loss not politics in 9/11 rites

From page A1

ramped dispute that had halted progress on the Sept. 11 memorial and the commemoration itself was to be different.

### Reading of names of 2,983 killed

The main events were to be the usual reading of [illegible] lists of the names of the 2,983 people killed both on 9/11 and in the precursor to those attacks, the 1993 car bombing of the World Trade Center.

Relatives of the dead were to take turns reading the names against a backdrop of mournful music.

They were to pause for moments of silence marking the time when each of the four planes hijacked by al-Qaeda turned into fireballs — two smashing into the Twin Towers, one into the Pentagon and one into a Pennsylvania field.

And for two moments of silence were to be observed at the times the two towers fell, injured, necessitating for the vast majority of 9/11's victims.

### Fitting transition

For the first time, elected officials would speak at an occasion that has allowed them a solemn turn in the spotlight, but also has been lined with questions about separating the Sept. 11 that is about personal loss from the 9/11 that can mean political payback.

To Charles G. Wolf, it's a fitting transition. "We've gone past that deep, collective period," said Wolf, whose wife, Katherine, was killed at the World Trade Center. "And the fact that the politicians still not be involved, to me, marks a great testimony for the families ... That's the way that it can be now."

US President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama planned to attend the Pentagon ceremony and visit wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. US Vice President Joe Biden and US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar were to speak at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, at the site where the hijacked United Air Lines plane went down.

Officeholders from the mayor to president have been banned as the New York convention, resulting from ranging from parts of the Democratic and Republican and the Gettysburg address to poems by John Donne and Langston Hughes.

### Deeply personal

Her former New York Sen. George Pataki, this year's change made a 30-year experience that was deeply personal, even as it reflected his political ends. He was governor at the time of the attacks.

"As the names are read out, I just know and have great memories of people who I knew very well who were on that list of names. It was very emotional," Pataki reflected by phone last week. Among his friends who were killed was Ted Lewis, the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

But Pataki supported the decision not to have partisan speeches.

"It's time to take the next step, which is simply to continue to pay tribute," Pataki said.

The National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum — led by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as its board chair — announced in July that this year's ceremony would include only relatives reading victims' names.

### Free of politics

The point, memorial president Joe Daniels said, was "honoring the victims and their families in a way free of politics" in an election year.

Some victims' relatives and commentators panned the decision. "It is time" to reinstate Sept. 11 from politics, the Boston Globe wrote in an editorial.

But others said keeping politicians off the stage is modeled of ... politics.

The more recent agreed between the memorial foundation and the governors of New York and New Jersey over 6 meetings by the museum — friction that abruptly subsided on Monday when Bloomberg and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced an agreement that paves the way for finishing the $700-million project — as soon as practicable."

Before the dust, Cuomo, a Democrat, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, had signaled their displeasure by calling on federal officials to give the memorial a financial and technical hand.

**WORKERS** unroll a giant US flag near a construction site at the Four World Trade Center on Monday. REUTERS

### A retaliation

Some victims' relatives saw the no-politicians anniversary ceremony as retaliation.

"Banning the governors of New York and New Jersey from speaking is the ultimate political decision," said one relatives' group, led by retired Deputy Fire Chief Jim Riches. His firefighter son and namesake was killed responding to the burning World Trade Center.

The White House said Obama had been briefed by "key national security principals on ... preparedness and security posture" for the anniversary.

But to keep in touch with the know-key atmosphere this year, there would apparently be no official suspension of the three presidential campaigns.

Former US President Bill Clinton would be campaigning for Obama and speaking out against Republican Mitt Romney at an event in Miami.

### Blow to al-Qaida

The passage of time appears to have eased public attention to Sept. 11, particularly after the huge media coverage of the 11th anniversary which many saw as a notable moment for declaring America's victory in peril.

A skyscraper at One World Trade Center is now complete and is again the tallest building in New York, as were the Twin Towers before they came down.

The killing by American troops of al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden in May 2011 has helped deliver a fatal strike to 9/11, as has the opening of the United Zero memorial, where last year's ceremonies were held.

### Bin Laden's successor

Bin Laden's successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri, released a video on the eve of this year's anniversary to rekindle the enthusiasm that his legacy, who Yasha al-Libi, had been killed in a Drone strike in Pakistan in June.

Libi was considered al-Qaida's global propaganda mastermind and his death dealt the biggest blow to the group since the killing of Bin Laden.

This year would also see the publishing on Tuesday of a book by a former US Navy Seal who was among the troops who shot dead Bin Laden in his Pakistan hideout.

The book describes in gory detail how the special forces killed the fugitive, then in disarray with the news, saying it was "by God and country." *Reports from AP and AFP*

## Mandaluyong City wins 2011 Nutrition Green Banner Award

Mayor Benhur Abalos and Child Development Worker Association of Barangay Hulo Leaguitan with Alcalde Pagsisi Representative Angelo G. Palmones, Child Development Specialist Dr. Fe Hidalgo and NNC-NCR Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Ma. Milagros Elisa V. Perlas-Bautista at the Awarding Ceremony

The National Nutrition Council-NCR held its **2012 Regional Nutrition Awarding Ceremony** on September 7, 2012 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City hosted by the City Nutrition Committee (CNC) of Mandaluyong led by Mayor Benhur and City Nutrition Action Officer (CNAO) Mrs. Mandita Abalos for being this year's Green Banner awardee.

Outstanding local government units (LGUs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) in NCR were recognized for excelling in nutrition program management and service delivery in 2011 based on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Level Plan Implementation (MELLPI) and BNS Evaluation conducted by the Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team (RNET).

Keynote Speaker in the event was former Health Secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan. The giving of awards was led by Cong. Angelo B. Palmones of KAKAMPI Partylist assisted by DOH CHDNCR Assistant Regional Director Adriane P. Suba-an and NNC-NCR Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Ms. Milagros Elisa V. Perlas-Bautista.

Mandaluyong City won the crown Banner Award for the second straight year. The crown Banner Award is given to an LGU which has shown very satisfactory performance in nutrition program management. Other top-performing cities are Taguig, Pateros, Quezon and Pasig (2nd Runner-up).

LGUs given special awards were Valenzuela City (Most in effort and Young Child Feeding Initiative), Mandaluyong City (Most in Documentation), Quezon City (Most Improved in Nutritional Status), Municipality of Pateros (Best in Barangay Nutrition Program Implementation), Pasig City (Most innovative in Nutrition Program Implementation), Makati City (Accredited Local Investment in Nutrition) and City of Manila (Best in Resource Generation and Mobilization).

Ms. Concepcion Bernabe of Makati City in the 2011 Regional Outstanding BNS (ROBNS) while Ms. Sabina Zamora of Mandaluyong City and Ms. Nilda Aguila of Pasig City were awarded as first and second runner-up ROBNS, respectively.

**A WOMAN** lays her hand over the names of fake fire respondents next to roses placed along the South Pool of the 9/11 Memorial, ahead of the 11-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001... attacks on the World Trade Center in Ground Zero in New York on Monday. REUTERS

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### THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 12, 2012
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 7:25-31

Mercy is good to those who remain virgins. I have no special commandment from the Lord, but I give some advice, hoping that I am worthy of it as I by the mercy of the Lord.

I think that is good in these hard times to exhibit our love. It is good for someone to remain as he is. If you are married, do not try to divorce your wife; if you are not married, do not marry. He who marries does not sin, nor does the young girl an who marries. He may suffer these distressing experiences, and I would like to spare you.

I say this, brothers and sisters: Time is running out, and those who are married must live as if not married, those who weep as if not weeping, those who are happy as if they were not happy, those buying something as if they had not bought it, and those enjoying the possessions life as if they were not enjoying it. For the system of this world is vanishing.

Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes on his disciples, Jesus said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

**Reflection**

*Luke's beatitudes are shorter than Matthew's, and they are balanced by woes. If 24 is Jesus' statement, 'Woe for you who are rich, for you have all the comfort you are going to get.' He won't be sent for 'have' (rejection) to be sent and for 'mourning and weeping' but all of woe 4 is an expression of the gospel's topic, the inversion of worldly values. Nothing feels like success.*

# President scolds BI officials

From page B1

some cases, including the December 2011 suspicious disappearance of Kris Tai Dong from St. Luke's Medical Center who was ordered deported by the South Korean government for the embezzlement of $8 million; the escape of the Reyes brothers who are wanted in connection with the January 2011 ambush of ex-Commissioner Gerry Ortega; and the entry of a cybercrime and human trafficking syndicate.

Mr. Aquino wondered how the Reyes brothers could have slipped out of the country on March 18 this year in the face of a "lookout bulletin" issued by then Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

"In connection this, are experts [than planning to escape to do everything to avoid ending in jail. They will not identify themselves as respondents in a case, as subjects of your watch list, and more so, they would turn themselves in to the authorities," he said.

"It's clear there was connivance, by hook, and there's no excuse that will be acceptable," he said of Reyes "bubble like" disappearance while under heavy guard by immigration agents. "Those found to have been negligent, and to have conspired: The law will make no distinctions."

Rim was taken to the hospital on Aug. 26, 2011, after complaining of hypertension, diabetes and abdominal pain. He was arrested on July 5 in Pasig City. A warrant for his arrest was issued by the Seoul South Korean court last April 6 after he was charged with cheating in a baccarat game on three instances in Seoul.

## Efficiency required

Yun: If the Bureau of Immigration matches this with efficiency and close monitoring, whether they change their appearance, use other names, or decline their documents, they'll still get caught," he added.

TONGUE-LASHING FROM THE PALACE Immigration employees listen to the speech of President Aquino who took to task some employees for their alleged involvement in the escape of some high-profile fugitives during the bureau's 72nd anniversary rites in Manila on Tuesday. AFP/RICHARD

A witness has executed an affidavit saying he had driven Reyes, Cocoa Mayor Mario Reyes and their lawyer Herman Aban to Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) where they boarded a flight to Shanghai in March purportedly with the aid of immigration officer Rodolfo Udarbe and security guard Wesley Contreras.

Authorities said Reyes left Naia on a Cebu Pacific flight on March 16, using a passport under the name of Joseph Lim Po.

The witness, presented in pursuing attache Moreen Bandin Cera and former Solicitor Gen. Feni Perez Chavez, said he was a former driver of Udarbe, a friend of lawyer Aban.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. has ordered the relief of Udarbe and Contreras pending an investigation.

Months ago, the Philippine National Police dangled a P500,000 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest of the Reyes brothers on top of the P1.05 million previously offered by private individuals and groups.

In mid-August, the President raised to P3 million the bounty on the heads of the Reyes brothers, as well as the individual brothers-in-law Eugenio Antonio Ong, Gen. Justin Peligarios, Globe Asiatique Realty Holding Corp. chair Emilio Lee and lawyer Dranger Ignacio Rubin-Galicia.

## Sleeping on the job

From the ease of the Reyes brothers could be gleaned the "sheer failure to do one's job," the President said, pointing out that the Reyeses were high-profile fugitives whose pictures had been released to the media, and yet managed to flee the country effortlessly.

"Can this happen without conspiracy and without anyone sleeping on the job? If there's conspiratorial individuals manipulated to elude the law enforcers, how much lesser known criminals?" he said.

The President also pointed to the roundup of 208 foreigners, believed to be members of a cybercrime and human trafficking syndicate operating in Taiwan and China, by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"The question now is: How did this many number of lawbreakers get into the country without being checked?" he said, pointing out that the bureau has failed to learn its lessons.

"Let's see to it that the [bureau of immigration does its job and ensure nobody like those people will ever live in the Philippines. Let's remember that every error comes with a risk to the life and security of a fellow Filipino," he said.

"Let's fix our systems. No matter how high-tech your agency's equipment is, if under the table negotiations persist, our monitoring will be for naught. Those in the frontline defense are useless if they're lax and slow to fight crooked urbanites," he said.

## Overtime pay

On a decisional for overtime pay, the President said that it's part of the bureau's job to help address undue worries.

"Let me make this clear: We're not setting aside your services. We continue to strive to ensure that you get your proper pay in accordance with the law. It's not enough that we say that this is the old way of doing things. We can't right a crooked system if we also justify our actions as old, common practice," he said.

"If we let a certain system to persist, then naturally we will stop what it entails. It's in our hands to choose which path to take."

# P-Noy planning something 'hot' this Christmas

From page A1

What he actually has in mind is a popular local dish — spicy cuttlefish in porridge with chicken broth.

The subject came up when Mr. Aquino was asked by reporters during a break in the Forum Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders Summit in Vladivostok, Russia, whether he had someone special to keep him warm when the weather gets cold this December.

The President, who can be occasionally candid about his personal life, replied: "Just a cuddle."

Pressed to reveal more, Mr. Aquino said: "I'm really only speaking in a vague cuddle. Pusher-ter, hair and pair de son. Jinchan [his nephew] might cook for me. You can add another dish haha. But that's not yours, it's normally served cold."

## Other women

Last was the President's date in December 2011 and they continued to go out until around the first quarter of this year, when they reportedly drifted apart.

Other women have also been romantically linked with Mr. Aquino.

One of them was Valenzuela Councilor Shalani Soledad, who later became a TV host. The two were reportedly romantically linked after they had a chance meeting in a restaurant in Quezon City, and they were seen on a few occasions in the 2010 presidential election campaign period. Ms. Soledad is now President in June that year.

It was reported that sometime in September 2010, they called it quits.

In January 2012, Soledad tied the knot with Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo.

## Prone regular to light in ears

The rumor mill later linked the President with four more women — stylist Liz Uy, showbizman Luis Lopez, teacher Sonny Calica and Sara Lee.

In November 2011, Mr. Aquino admitted to a TV reporter during the 18th Apec summit in Japan that he had been dating Uy. In December that year, he was rumored to be dating Lopez.

In May 2011, the President was spotted on a date with a woman eventually identified as Sahra, a teacher who is into early education and is working with Korean students. They were seen at a Hotdog Hoedown concert at the ballroom of Crown Plaza Hotel in Makati City.

Later that year, the President compared his love life — or lack of it — to a sugar-free cake. "Better yet, sugar-regular," then-Palace spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said. "Now it's 'zero,'" he said.

## Reporters, too

Then in February this year, his confidante was dating Lea. The two were spotted in April at the Sergio Mendes concert at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

A month later, in accordance, the President was quoted as saying that he and Lea were "friends."

Before becoming president, Aquino was romantically linked to television reporters Korina Sanchez in the 1990s and Rachelle Ann Go in 2002. Sanchez and Santiago have since gotten married. **With a report from Inquirer Research**


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# OPINION

Editorial e-mail: inqletters@yahoo.com

## 'Kotong' on the streets

THE STORY sounds depressingly familiar: Motorists in flagged down by cops and threatened with jail time for an alleged offense, unless a certain amount of cash is forked over. How many ordinary citizens have been victimized this way by policemen and traffic enforcers doubting as professional extortionists? Who knows? Many simply comply out of fear for their lives and safety, and don't bother to report the highway robbery.

**EDITORIAL**

But, in the latest case to hit the headlines, two cops had the extreme bad luck of harassing a 22-year-old man who turned out to have the best secret weapon possible in cases like this: His father is the policemen's boss.

It was probably all in a day's work for SPO4 Jose de la Peña and PO2 Rony del Rosario of the Quezon City Police District's Mobile Patrol Unit when they accosted the young driver who had pushed his car along a Quezon City street and was talking to someone on his mobile phone. The cops accused the driver of engaging in phone use, told him bluntly that it was a serious offense, and demanded P20,000 to hush up the case. The frightened driver said he didn't have that kind of money, so the amount was progressively decreased until the cops settled for P5,000. De la Peña then took over the wheel to drive the young man to an ATM where he could withdraw the money. But the driver seized the chance to call his father for help, and that's when the extortion attempt was foiled.

"My son's voice was crashing," Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, the new director of the National Capital Police Region Office, later said in recalling the incident. "I really got worried because he was already crying when he told me what just happened to him. So I immediately told him to get the policeman who accosted him on the phone... [The policeman] asked me who I was. So I told him, 'This is General Espina.' But he suddenly hung up."

The scene zoomed straight out of a bad movie. According to Espina's son, the two cops immediately hotfooted after hearing his father's name on the phone. (Cue hysterical laughter here.)

The rogue cops are now facing administrative charges. Del Rosario surfaced to say that the extortion was all De la Peña's idea, and that he was just "following orders" from his superior. De la Peña himself, accompanied by two lawyers, showed up at the QCPD only last Monday.

"We will do everything to go after these [kinds of policemen]," said a hotshot Espina. "We don't want them to stay in the Philippine National Police."

Espina's has a tough job ahead. We've heard those words before from a long line of PNP brass immediately promising to clean up the Augean stables that the country's law enforcement force has become. But, every day, the "kotong" cop style appears to grow in number, criminal record and sense of impunity. Espina's vow to kick out the likes of his son's tormentors, for instance, is quickly deflated by subsequent news that De la Peña alone has seven administrative cases in his record—two of them for similar charges of extortion.

At various times, this classic snakepit in uniform was also accused of domineering and bending a convict's and being "uncaptured, bedding and rude," all acts qualifying as grave misconduct. Three of his cases had been approved for summary dismissal, but the charges, the number of wrongdoers, or both in the case, if not for the break-ups of some of his heroic victim's powerful family connections (finally—if entirely accidentally—hunting his long-standing criminal enterprise wide open). De la Peña would doubtless still be on the streets today, fleecing citizens on the strength of his police badge.

According to PNP records, most abusive cops tend to come from the ranks of enlisted and junior law enforcers. That newest something is terribly wrong with the training these newbies are getting in—as well as the organizational environment they graduate into from the academy because many of them flounder all too soon in cases of rape, robbery, extortion, arbitrary detention, illegal arrest, maltreatment, and even torture of suspects—the usual catalogue of police crimes. And once those young policemen get away with it the first few times, they're obviously well on their way to becoming the legendary kotong cops.

The Aquino administration has seen a measure of success in its campaign against that symbol of exuberance on the streets, the "wang-wang." Something similar needs to be done, urgently, against corrupt policemen and dysfunctional PNP systems. Espina has laid down bold policies for Quezon City cops. We will hold him to his word. After all, very few of us have a police general for a father.

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## Enrile: RH bill hangs in balance in Senate

THE REPRODUCTIVE Health bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, is in peril in the Senate. Those opposed to it have a one-vote lead over its supporters, according to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile who sets the lone guest at the Kapihan sa Manila at The Manhattan Hotel last Monday. Enrile said that based on a head count he had made, nine senators would vote against the bill, eight would vote in favor, with six senators still undecided. The fate of the RH bill will therefore depend on these six, Enrile said. Its backers would need nine against eight.

What aspects of the bill are some of the senators opposing, and will amendments make it acceptable to them? Enrile said he did not know the amendments being proposed. As he himself objection, he said progress and development would depend on investments, not on the size of the population.

He cited China—now one of the richest nations in the world and sighted power—as an example. With 1.3 billion inhabitants, it also has the world's biggest population. With a population that large, the factor base is very big and lots for their products. It also has a big pool of workers that enables it to make its products cheaper, which makes them more competitive in the world market.

On the other hand, some countries like Germany and Singapore that have diminishing populations have to import foreign workers. They are now urging their people to have more children. Singapore is offering bonuses to its young people to marry and have children.

Four countries like the Philippines export their workers. That puts a strain on their families, displaces the workers in their own countries, and decreases the market for their products.

On contraception, Enrile echoed the Church's argument that once fertilization takes place in the womb, there already is life and we do not have the right to terminate that life.

Told that contraceptives, such as condoms and diaphragms, precisely prevent fertilization, that the sperm and ovum do not even meet, Enrile answered: "How do we know when fertilization, life, begins? Only God knows and guess that."

On the "sin tax" bill that would raise the tax on oil, and therefore increase the prices of, cigarettes, Enrile also expressed his opposition. Aside from the fact that he comes from a tobacco-growing region, he said that increasing the prices of tobacco too much would only encourage smuggling.

When the price of any product is too high in any country, then only encourages smugglers to bring in similar products, such as cigarettes, from abroad. Instead of discouraging smokers, they would have access to cheaper ones, the smuggled cigarettes.

"Remember when smuggled cigarettes were being sold all over the Philippines? Do we want those days to return?" Enrile said. "We were not able to stop smuggling then; we won't be able to stop smuggling now." Both in many ideas and in Sabah beaches, the Philippines is very vulnerable to smuggling. Our navy boats cannot even match up with the bangis of the smugglers, he added.

Instead of increasing revenues, too high taxes would decrease them, as what happened in other countries like Malaysia, Singapore and Australia that also raised taxes on cigarettes.

Enrile said he was not totally against raising the sin tax. "But not too much," he added. As proposed in the bill, cigarette prices would more than double. That's proved already.

"Even the cigarette manufacturers are amenable to an increase in the sin tax," Enrile said, "but not at the level they are proposing. The manufacturers, such as Fortune Tobacco, also want to maintain the multiple levels of taxes." Fortune manufactures less-priced cigarettes. The sin tax bill will impose the same rate of tax on all brands: it will be the same for high-priced and low-priced cigarettes.

High prices will not discourage smoking, Enrile said. Smoking is not a habit, it is an addiction, even if a smoker wants to quit, he cannot because his body craves for the nicotine. He will continue to crave for a cigarette. So what will he do if he cannot afford a cigarette? Like a drug addict, he will steal to satisfy his craving. Or buy smuggled cigarettes.

Enrile hinted that he will not support the health of smokers, either. That has to only propaganda. On the contrary, they will affect his health issues. Why? A poor smoker will devote a bigger part of his money for cigarettes and cut the part for food. So the smoker will add alternatives to smoking, use stinky high prices, but some smoking to really drug addiction. The drug is nicotine.

Enrile is more optimistic with the Freedom of Information bill.

"That was already passed by the Senate in the last session but Congress adjourned before it could be approved by the House," he said. "So it has to go back to the beginning of the legislative mill."

"I am personally in favor of the bill," he added. "It is the steadiness of the House who are blocking it. Why he afraid of the truth if you are not doing anything wrong?"

He also said the proposed budget for 2013 would have no trouble hurdling the Senate. Asked if there would be enough funding for the proposed budget, which is very much bigger than the current one, he replied in the affirmative.

Enrile also said he has ordered investigation of controversial Investor Undersecretary Rito E. Primo, who is suspected of trying to get sensitive documents from the officers and living quarters of Secretary Jesse Robredo after his plane crashed in the sea off Masbate. It is to be recalled that one of the documents that the feds was investigating, such as "tarring," illegal logging, and overpricing in the purchase of guns for the Philippine National Police.

**As I See It**

*Neal H. Cruz*

## Recovering things

**There's the Rub**

*Conrado de Quiros*

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government chair Andres Bautista proposes that the Department of Tourism run Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada's tourist attraction. Might as well make money off them, he says, until they are auctioned off.

The idea sucks. Bautista may have good intentions but his lacks imagination.

The jewels are a minor Ali Baba treasure. They include the Malacañang collection of 800 pieces that Imelda left behind to her doom after the mad but handy exodus on those days in February like a proverbial, and quite literal, thief in the night. The Bonifacio collection of 600 pieces of which the UN Customs relieved them when they got there, and 60 pieces of jewelry that a friend hinted of Imelda's need to spare all from the property later to wash away the grime, physical and spiritual question of what things you would try to carry out of your burning house. Imelda must have had a surfeit of jewels to forget about them.

But which brings us to this: The jewels are stolen. We know that from the fact that they have been seized from Imelda and are now kept in the vaults of the Bangko Sentral until they can be sold. And the jewels are worth a fortune, currently more of a fortune than her 1,000 pairs of shoes. We know that from the valuation of the jewels made by Imelda's lawyers when they were asking Customs to release the jewels to them. Antonio Gardiner's concept that you can have a crime without a criminal, which she put forward after investigating the Comelec's illegitimate seats, you have a definite criminal here. You have a thief. So, you have one very big thief.

You exhibit the jewels in hopes of luring in the curious, the curious will ask about something even more curious: If Imelda is a thief, indeed if Imelda is one very big thief, how come she is still free? How come she is not in jail?

The DOT does what theories suggests and it will join tours, and not very savory, meanings in it. It's more fun in the Philippines. There's something in the Philippines. There's nothing more fun in the Philippines. There's more fun in the Philippines.

The same is true if you displayed those jewels in a museum that country, if not the world, of what a thief is capable of. Which, let from the economic paradise the Marcos couples in Tradition pro-gang, into a country populated by drugs and thieves, cutthroats and terrorists, Maldaks of Mahajat, most of them to be found in Malacañang. The young and not-so-very young who did not directly experience martial law... it was all off of 30 years ago, an eternity for us—will probably say "Ah, so?" and very little. But why is God's name are the people responsible for this still around? Why in God's name are they not just around but are a menace, a compromise, and a governor of Ilocos Norte?

Why the hell are they not in jail?

The jewels will only remind us of what we failed to do.

In fact, however strange it may seem, we have been subscribing all this time, if unwittingly, if implicitly, to the concept that there can be a crime without a criminal. In favor of a Truth Commission, which we have consistently supported despite side bad, are had a PCGG. The purpose of a Truth Commission is manifold: It is to determine the extent of the pillage and, where possible, recover it. Throughout the PCGG's existence, it has tried to locate the loot particularly stashed abroad and succeeded in recovering part of it. And yet despite recovering it, despite reclaiming it, despite getting it back from those who stole it, it has never called those who stole it thieves. It has never called them criminals.

It has never prosecuted them. It has never jailed them.

What is that if not something that there can be a crime without a criminal?

There is nothing attractive about those jewels, monetary or otherwise. There is everything ugly about them. It may be looking at them currently sad. What has happened to this country's morals? What has happened to this country's sense of right and wrong? What has happened to its common's passion?

Yun is the Inone Superlite. Yes, that is what it is, a superlite. Or at least the myth is, which has had a regression history from the rest of us as Marcos past. There had 51 confessions of his beneficiary there a light again on the fact that State schools have a different interpretation of history and their folk have a different view of martial law. "The Marcos greatness," says one elementary public school teacher, "always remains. If there was a great Marcos during his time, his children are here today to make this nation great again." What she was at a premium, the rest of us can only see as a threat.

But you wonder at the innocent minds that are subjected to their brutality.

If Marcos Yesterday can be celebrated that way then, imagine how martial law will be celebrated on its 40th anniversary on Sept. 21.

The rest of the country hasn't exactly been "frustrated," but the results of the Marcos to Aquino years have left us still mired in poverty and the recent attempts to turn Marcos into a hero on a burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani are cause for alarm. It reminds us that the Marcoses did not just steal the country's money, they stole the country's soul. They stole the country's will, they stole the country's pride, they stole the country's future. And now they're stealing the country's memory.

Maybe we need to parade Imelda's jewels to the public, if not to the nation, to remind us of what we failed to do. But more than that, we need to build a museum of horrors, if only to the public mind, to remind us, as we approach Friday next week, what of we still need to do.

We need to restore the past. We need to recover the truth.

We need to locate ourselves.

# Russia's imperial dream and Apec's debacle

**ANALYSIS**

*Armando Doronila*

(First of two parts)

VLADIVOSTOK, THE enchanting venue of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum and leaders' summit last weekend, is the main Russian port city fronting the Pacific Ocean. In 1959, after a visit to the United States, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev dreamed of making Vladivostok Russia's San Francisco.

In hosting the summit of 20 Pacific Basin nations, Russia came close to realizing its dream. Invariably with all summits, the preparations for the meetings, Russia is reported to have spent $21 billion—50 percent more than Britain spent on the Summer Olympic Games. Apoyan Transoil Private (APT) reports that after the summit, Russia is hoping that Vladivostok, once cleared of foreign ice and boredom for Mafia crime, "will become its window and open new markets just as from the Great founded St. Petersburg to be a window on Europe."

Vladivostok means to "rule the east," and it was pointed out by AFP that, from the tourist vistas to lower vistas, it served as a fortress city, hosting back terrorists banished from other parts of Asia. Fresh Foundry (Russian) Island, which is surrounded by the Amur Bay, was the site of the summit. Before the opening of the Apec conference, Russia's "biggest outreach to Asia in memory," Vladivostok had been cut off by

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# SC should be united

LETTERS

ASG I thought President Aquino didn't approve of wang-wangs at all times. But he has appointed Maria Lourdes Sereno as chief justice.

Seriously, the President's choice of Sereno (Chief's first appointee to the Supreme Court) as chief justice may be likened to a father lavishing his "favoritism child" over his "adopted children," the sitting justices having been appointed by the previous president (s).

Accordingly, Chief Justice Sereno seems to bring back to the Supreme Court the "problem child" of dignified silence. I believe this should be the perfect role for all sensitive government institutions, except for the Office of the President Spokesman, who must always observe "dignified talk" as it speaks for and in behalf of the President.

This bold unanimous setting from the new Chief Justice may as well be a good omen. "By God's sovereignty alone, the leadership mantle has been given to me, and I accept it in all humility, knowing that without the Lord God anointing my leadership, success is not possible," Sereno said first, let us all hope that the young Chief Justice and the rest of her Supreme Court colleagues stay strong and united, lest they be outfoxed "The Young and the Restless."

So, dear God, please make possible for Chief Justice Sereno's leadership to succeed....even against all odds.

—CRITT E. PATTERL
chitopcarrera@yahoo.com

# SSS adopts scrapped onerous GSIS requirement

SOCIAL SECURITY System is now requiring its pensioners to report—personally every year, otherwise their pensions would be suspended. This is the first time since its establishment in 1954 that SSS has imposed due requirements, inconveniencing millions of members all over the country. A great number of these pensioners are sick, many of them with terminal illnesses, and it is cruel to require them to show up at SSS offices just to be able to claim their pensions which in the average do not exceed P5,000/monthly.

I observed up one weeks ago to report that I am still alive, despite having to walk with a cane. I saw at the SSS national office on Edsa Avenue, Quezon City, hundreds of pensioners waiting for their turn a counter for "verification" of their status. Many in wheelchairs or walking on canes, and assisted by children or grandchildren because they could only wobble. Some, when they finally reached the counters after standing for hours, were told to return the next day. Many retrieved early as they could not find their UMID cards. Others were told to report to other SSS regional or district offices as they were not supposed to be accommodated at the main office. A huge number of them could hardly afford the trip to and fro. Some needed to travel from Isabela or other far-flung provinces because a large portion of them were lowly employees and retired workers with a small wage base.

Considering the number of SSS members retired, it is not unreasonable to suppose that many more are in hospitals or in their homes, unable to travel except by ambulance.

The Government Service Insurance System adopted the same requirement during the incumbency of Mr. Corazon Juliano Soliman, but President Aquino administration. Thousands of pensioners received kindly acknowledged and thank Gracia she must heard GSIS head since no bounding. This also commended to President Gloria Arroyo's unpopularity. There are tiered to millions of GMS and still retirees still able to vote. Adding their families, there indeed is a voter base not to be ignored.

However, GSIS pensioners have not a sigh of relief when the new GSIS administration headed by Robert G. Stegura abolished the onerous obligation. Apparently the new GSIS administration realized that the requirement was unnecessary, as there are other reliable means to check whether a member has died. The SSS and GSIS have spent astronomical amounts for decades without the requirement. The National Statistics Office, which keeps a record of births and deaths, can be relied on for the information with proper coordination.

This new burdensome requirement is contrary to the "doing more with" policy of President Aquino because it adds unnecessary red tape to strict "doing-wrong"; the SSS operations is synonymous to "nonsense" type manner, especially the slow. New SSS president and CEO Emilio S. de Quiros Jr. is ill-advised to impose this new rule.

—MANUEL S. LAMARO, JR.
mslamaro@yahoo.com

# Hard road to Olympics should also be way of life

THE AUG. 20, 2012 editorial of the Inquirer addressed the issue of the dismal performance of our athletes in the last Olympics and gave the following as a progressive-improvement over-all performance: "The national leadership needs to direct its resources to draw up a coherent and properly funded national sports development program, covering both the grassroots and the elite sectors, to be run by credible and competent leaders and complemented by privately financed and private programs on state sports sectors of our country. The idea is to make sports both a way of life and a state of mind."

The resolution sounds good. If this were implemented, I think sports in the country will certainly improve. I would just like to add that in the end-line who counts are the finishers in the athletic himself. What do I mean?

Many, if not all, of the athletes who were sent to the Olympics did have good support from their families, clubs, coaches, teammates, sponsors, etc. It seems that they need where they need, when they get the medals, because there was an entire structure behind their finishing strong etc.

But take a look at each of them. Listen to their stories. We will observe that in every case we finish pursued who had a dream and we had hard to reach it. They are examples of inspiration, ambition, discipline and hard work. They are symbol of virtues.

Yes, I think we Filipinos should get our act together. But I also think we Filipinos [and I mean each one] should also higher and more humble. It's the only way we get there possible.

—FR. CELSO FL. MACERO, JR.
resurgajim@gmail.com


Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
Office of the Provincial Government
Capitol, Oroquieta City

INVITATION TO BIDDING FOR PROCUREMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
AND CONSTRUCTION OF CALABAYAN-PUNTOD ROAD, SECTION
(CALABAYAN - PUNTOD), ESMERALDA, CITY, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

1. The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental, through the Farm to Market Road Project of President Benigno S. Aquino III intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Infrastructure and Construction of Calabayan-Puntod Road, Brgy. Calabayan - Puntod, Esmeralda City, Misamis Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during opening.

2. The Province of Misamis Occidental now invites bids for Procurement of Infrastructure Project and Construction of Calabayan-Puntod Road, Brgy. Calabayan - Puntod, Esmeralda City, Misamis Occidental. Completion of the Project is required within Sixty (60) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within last [ ] (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, namely: [a] Bidder is a Filipino citizen or a Philippine corporation, partnership, or association duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, thru Atty. Jo-Ann Tuason-Ramos, Provincial Capitol, Oroquieta City, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from September 20, 2012 to October 10, 2012 at the address below and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P 5,000.00.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. The Province of Misamis Occidental will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on September 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor Annex Building, Provincial Capitol, Oroquieta City, which shall be open to prospective bidders.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 1, 2012, 9:30 a.m. at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor Annex Building, Provincial Capitol, Oroquieta City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

7. Bid opening shall commence at 10:00 a.m. on the same date at the address given above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The Province of Misamis Occidental reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. JO-ANN TUASON-RAMOS
BAC Chairman
Province of Misamis Occidental
2nd Floor Annex Building, Provincial Capitol, Oroquieta City
(088) 531-0073

Sgd. ATTY. JO-ANN TUASON-RAMOS
BAC Chairman


# MNLF belies aid to BIFF

THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) denies in very strong terms the accusation that it is providing "organizational support" to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). The MNLF upholds the 1976 Tripoli Peace Agreements and the 1996 Peace Accord. It adheres to the 1996 Jakarta DFI/MILF Implementation. Its action will always be guided by the Charter of the United Nations on Self-Determination. Despite the MNLF realities from the terrain/handling negotiations, it will abide with these agreements. The MNLF expresses regret that the Philippine government is now offering the MILF terms and conditions that were the subject of those agreements.

The MNLF supports the struggle of its MILF and BIFF brothers. Their struggle is in pursuit of lawful basic human rights for self-determination. But it is the human belief of the MNLF that with the way the government negotiations are conducting the negotiation, the pursuit for peace will not come.

—S. EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA
spokesman, legal counsel,
Moro National Liberation Front, MNLF for Mindanao,
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A SECTION of the Marcos museum in Batac City features the year 1989 when strongman Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in Honolulu, Hawaii. The room features Marcos' trousers and some of his clothes. STORY

# What 'Da Real Macoy' means to Ilocano folk

By Cristina Arcadio
Batac City

In Ilocandia, days of merrymaking mark the late strongman's 95th birthday

NEW GENERATION of Ilocanos won't remember the darkest years of Philippine history the way most Filipinos had breathed and lived during martial rule which Ilocos' favorite son, Ferdinand Marcos, declared nearly 40 years ago.

Every year when Ilocos Norte marks Marcos' birth anniversary, the days of dictatorship continue to be abbreviated in the minds of young Ilocanos.

This year, the Marcos-promoted Ilocandia jubilee month to mark their late patriarch's 95th birthday and this they got with days of merrymaking that began on Saturday leading up to Sept. 11.

Unlike previous celebrations when politicians of old would dominate, the event this year gathered the younger generation with performances and choreographed dances from high school and college students in a flash mob during the opening day concert.

Organizers even provided a free Wi-Fi service at the concert grounds in Batac, enabling spectators to instantly connect to the Internet and upload photos and videos of the activities into social network sites instantly.

The event revived the 1970s era with retro dances and outfits, which reminded the young of that period of color but devoid of the images of street protests that became a precursor to Marcos' martial law declaration on Sept. 21, 1972.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, who came with other members of the Marcos family, wore her famous jeans and shirt imprinted with the logo of the billionaire lifestyle, which she chaired after its creation in 1975.

The organizers also devoted a day for younger students to participate in various contests, ranging from literary quiz bee, poster-making and extemporaneous speech to storytelling with a common theme, "In Imee Marcos' The numerals were meant to involve in their minds who Marcos was through their narratives and artistic talents.

Marcos' birthday did not come to pass without commemorative activities held at the former presidential residence, Malacañang of the North, in Pasuquin town.

Once run by the Philippine Tourism Authority, the former presidential vacation house has been acknowledged by the provincial government beginning last year. The once-crumbling structure has undergone a face-lift and is now stuffed with presidential memorabilia personnel.

It was converted into a Malacañang Museum housing well-preserved memorabilia from the Marcos regime and other relevant and historical archives in time for Marcos' birthday.

His birthday was marked with the release of new books authored by Ilocano writers. These chronicled chapters of the Marcos presidency, including a collection of stories about Imee Marcos's recent destinations.

The late Ilocano political science professors, Soliver Cruday, once said in a statement that his interest of civilians will "rest on the Ilocanos' reverence for Marcos.

### National consciousness

"Marcos brought Ilocos Norte to national consciousness when he became President. That was the Ilocanos' time of glory," Cruday said last year at the height of a raging debate on whether Marcos should be considered a hero.

Cruday, who belonged to the generation of martial law babies, once joined a group of young Ilocano professionals who were formed by a community goal to educate the youth on asserting their rights against oppressive regimes.

Before he died early this year, Cruday's lingering argument to his colleagues was that it was wrong to judge Ilocanos for supposedly having a warped sense of history by continuing to perpetuate a heroic Marcos in their minds.

He said the collective respect was brought about by the Ilocano psyche that Ilocos earned nation, al significance when its native son occupied Malacañang.

It is up to martial law survivors to continue extolling the success as to that dark period of Philippine democracy, he said.

And as a time when the Ilocanos are at the helm of Ilocos Norte provincial government, careers from area and his sworn to approve of how Governor Imee son has converted a once laid-back province to a bustling commercial hub that has become a blend of homegrown businesses and labors Manila's neighborhood-style franchise chains and retail stores.

Despite silent protests from businessmen who continue to be displaced by the strong competition, Governor Marcos maintains to roll out business activities from leasing public buildings to storefronts, building more commercial hubs away from the progressive downtown district to the doorsteps of schools and known tourist spots.

# Amid RH bill row, group trains midwives, sets up birthing clinics

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

WHILE THE reproductive health (RH) bill is stirring debates inside and outside Congress, how is the number of women dying at childbirth being reduced in Pampanga?

A group is doing its bit by training "hemodriver" (midwives or birth attendants) and setting up birthing clinics run by midwives.

"They're on the frontline of caring for pregnant women," says Sylvia Dolabon, secretary-general of the Kapampangan Development Foundation (KDF), which tried why the group's Pampanga Zero Maternal and Infant Mortality Movement has helped on upgrading the skills of midwives.

The project, running for two years now, is supported by a P3.5-million grant from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT)-Smart Communications to help the Philippines meet its targets for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Dolabon says.

The MDG is a set of poverty alleviation targets identified by UN member states and the world's leading development institutions. The goals range from reducing extreme poverty to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education by 2015.

More than 2,000 midwives attended the seven training sessions the KDF had organized together with the Philippine League of Government and Private Midwives and the European health office.

October says the training program aims to bridge the gaps in the skills and knowledge that were not met in the old curriculum. Years ago, she said, the courses did not teach stitching wounds or administering intravenous medicines.

The KDF has set up birthing clinics in Apalit, San Simon and Lubao towns. More are expected to be established in the province.

Hemorrhage (bleeding), eclampsia (seizures in pregnant women) are the top causes of maternal deaths in the Philippines, according to Dr. Vedova Mariadng-de Guzman, a member of the MDG task force, citing a World Health Organization study.

Maternal deaths in the country in 2011 rose to 221 per 100,000 live births, while child mortality dropped to 30 per 1,000 live births. The targets are to bring the figures down to 52 and 27, respectively, according to the Department of Health.

De Guzman calls midwives "pick-up points" because complicated birth deliveries are first brought to their attention. Midwives are bound by health protocols to immediately refer those patients to hospitals, she said.

Some complications among mothers never change, Dr. Guzman says.

Like doctors, midwives work way to the government are allowed to do private practice. Since they charge only P2,500 to P5,000, some midwives tend to hire unskilled or unlicensed birth attendants or nurses who cannot handle complicated cases, Dolabon says.

Some allow extended time to earn, but Dr. Guzman says delaying the delivery puts both the mother and child at risk. "The so-called dilemma of who to save, the mother or the baby, exists only in the movies or television. The priority is the mother," she says.

The standard rule is that midwives can only assist women who underwent prenatal check-ups in their clinics, says Marilyn Magbitang, a midwife of 27 years.

She says midwives must undergo continuing professional education as they can renew their licenses every three years.

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Across the NATION

RIVER PARADISE Oyster and fish farms line the Putican River in Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte. PHOTO JOSTON ALTIN

# Top Agusan cops sacked over logging

BUTUAN CITY—A town police chief and the head of a provincial police intelligence unit were fired after a report submitted to the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo linked them to the continued operations of illegal logging syndicates in Mindanao.

Senior Supt. Ulysses dela Torre, chief of police of Agusan del Sur, said removed from office were Senior Insp. Bill Acopiano, chief of police of Veruela town, and Senior Insp. Romeo Villalobos, head of the provincial police intelligence unit.

Acopiano and Villalobos were named in a report on illegal logging submitted to Robredo by Inocles Ouro, special assistant to Robredo at the Department of Interior and Local Government, a few days before Robredo died in a plane crash.

Acopiano and Villalobos were among several civilian officials and law enforcers named in Ouro's report to Robredo on illegal logging in Agusan del Sur that continued in defiance of an executive order issued by President Benigno Aquino to stop all forms of commercial logging in watersheds across the country.

The others named in the report include Renante Miranda, retired Marine general and now head of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force; Salinas Mondejar, mayor of Veruela town; and Victorio Plana, councilor of Trento town.

Only Ouro said police are asking Ouro to fairly pursue charges against those he named in his report by supplying evidence.

Mayor Mondejar, however, cried foul over Ouro's report.

"Tagging me as a key player in the illegal logging trade in Agusan is a lie," Mondejar said. He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has recognized him as the best enforcer of the logging ban in Agusan del Sur.

Mondejar questioned Ouro's motive in linking the mayor to illegal logging. He said Ouro wants to desist on the Mondejar town because Ouro's cousin, Charlie, plans to run for mayor of Veruela next year.

"If you want national laws, it's fine but not at my expense," Mondejar said, addressing himself to Ouro. "This is all about the unsavory bid of his cousin, which he openly endorsed," the mayor said.

Mondejar said he was willing to submit himself to any administration investigation and lifestyle check just to clear his name.

"I am not hiding anything," Mondejar said.

Harry Tabalno, now chief in Caraga of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, said the allegations that Miranda and other task force officials were involved in illegal logging was the work of "vested interest groups hurt by the ban's no-nonsense crackdown" on illegal logging.

"Our record of apprehensions and operations throughout Caraga speak for our effectiveness and dedication to put a stop to illegal logging," he said.

But Otilo Villaseñor, head of the diocese of Tandag's social action center, said, in Surigao del Sur alone, rampant illegal logging in former logging concession areas was being run by members of the task force.

He said one of the illegal loggers is a younger brother of an army general, who has close ties with Miranda and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje. He declined to name the alleged illegal loggers.

Villaseñor said the involvement of task force members in illegal logging operations should prompt President Aquino to immediately abolish the task force.

"The dissolution of the current Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force is necessary. The big loss is a failed policy," he said.

Taladua challenged Villaseñor to support his charges with evidence and file charges in court against those he claimed to be involved in illegal logging. *Jeannille A. Colligado, Inquirer Mindanao*

## Gov't urged: Stop begging for rice import quota

DAVAO CITY—An official of the party-list group Abono has called on the government to stop negotiating for another extension of the quantitative restriction (QR) on rice with the World Trade Organization (WTO), saying it was "useless."

Rosendo So, Abono chair, said WTO had already granted the government a QR in rice extension from 2008 to 2012 but this was never used, until it resigned on June 30. QR allows the Philippine government to impose higher tariff on rice imports beyond a certain volume.

Before the QR ancient expired, the Philippines had a minimum access volume (MAV) of 350,000 metric tons for rice imports, subject to a 40-percent duty. Importation in excess of the MAV was levied a 50-percent tariff.

### Never used

During a hearing conducted on Wednesday by the House committee on agriculture and food, So said Rural Rep. Agusto Gaudiel, chair of the House committee on food security, found that the MAV for rice since 2006 was never used by the government.

He said this was because rice importation from 2008 to 2011 was granted through a special rice importation exemption of the National Food Authority (NFA), with the Department of Finance shouldering the tariff.

### No added funds

"If the rice importation from 2008 to 2011 utilized the MAV, the Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) could have accumulated funds [from the tariff] to help local farmers," So said.

He said that with the country's success to its rice self-sufficiency program, the 350,000 MT MAV is now useless.

"Unjustifiably, Assistant Secretary Danny De Luna said the country will only be importing 300,000 MT of rice next year because the country is already on track with its rice self-sufficiency program," he said.

He said he agreed with Gilbert Lauengco, special assistant to NFA Administrator Angelito Banayo, when he said the government should not pursue the QR extension.

### More expensive

Lauengco also said during the hearing that Thailand wanted the Philippines to import 650,000 MT of Thai rice before its government could agree to a QR extension.

"But why should we import from Thailand when the price of rice there is [$548 (P22,647)] per metric ton, compared to the price in Vietnam, which is only $428 (P17,699) per metric ton?" So said. *Rudolf Cardenas, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## Mangyan area quarantined after 2 deaths from meningo

By Marlowe Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A Mangyan community of at least 20 families was quarantined by health officials of Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro after two persons died of meningococcemia there last week.

The outbreak of the highly contagious disease was reported to Dr. Rilo Rubidoa in Barangay Lumangbayan, where one of the dead, Chris Barangay, 65, had lived.

Barangay died of meningo at the provincial hospital on Sept. 5.

Barangay's grandson, Bernan, 3, died two days after but while being treated at the community's health center, according to Abra de Ilog Mayor Eric Constantino.

Constantino said the village chief of Lumangbayan, who brought Barangay in the hospital, had developed similar symptoms and is now being observed.

Constantino said the two deaths were enough for health officials to declare a meningo outbreak in the village.

The Department of Health considers one meningo case too many in a place where no meningo case had been reported previously.

A report released on Monday by the disaster office in Minloro, Mariveleños, Romblon, Palawan Mimaropa) said the older barangay developed skin rashes, high fever and respiratory infection—symptoms of meningococcemia—a week before the first.

She was taken to the community health facility and later to the provincial hospital, which confirmed that she had meningococcemia.

Meningococcemia is a deadly, highly contagious disease that spreads through the air or through the transmission of saliva or respiratory droplets.

"Diseases said it is as contagious as cobra," Constantino said in a phone interview on Monday.

BIG CUCUMBERS are being bred and reproduced at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources center in Alaminos City. ALAMINOS CITY PIO/INQUIRER VISAYAS

## *Moon watching more fun at BFAR*

By Yolanda Estrada
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS CITY—At the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) demonstration center in this city, fishery specialists are moon watchers.

They observe lunar phases not because they are voyeurists, but because the moon's appearance has a big influence on the reproductive abilities of fish they are propagating.

For instance, tigatoi (mullet) breeds during the first quarter of the moon, Bey Arthur Bautillano, officer in charge of the Regional Mariculture Technology and Demonstration Center in Lasqui village, said.

"There is also a coasting period of two days before the spawn. Two days before the moon's first quarter phase, we put a female and two male tigatoi in a 250-liter tank. The male fish secretes plenty of milt (sperm containing secretions of fish) which is why we put two female fish as the milt won't be wasted," Bautillano said.

Tigatoi is one of three species being propagated in the center. The others are siokon (Siganus spinus), which reproduces during the full moon, and sand fish or sea cucumber, which breeds before and after the full moon.

But fishery technologists have the one deposited solely on the moon to make fish spawn. They also induce reproduction through hormones (tapatoi), thermal shock (siokon) or feed them with antiestrogen like spirolina.

The BFAR facility used in propagating fingers (milkfish) but shifted this year to the three high-value species. The rabbit (another fingers) has been transferred to the BFAR research center in Dagupan City.

"We have enough (substantiation) on the production of fingers that is why we have shifted to other high-value species. We also intend to preserve and propagate fish and invertebrates which are endangered because of overfishing," said formerly Lechira, officer in charge of BFAR Bicol planning, monitoring and evaluation division.

"If we do not conserve and protect these species, we will lose them in the long run because of the high extraction rate," he said.

Even in a controlled environment, the chance of larvae survival is very low. For instance, from 500,000 larvae of abalone, only 6 percent or 44,800 survive after 70 days.

"So you see the need to push for the protection of these resources," Lechira said.

## East Visayas wage board OKs ₱7 hike in allowance

By Joy Cabiles
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—More than a million workers in Eastern Visayas are to receive P7 in additional pay after the region's wage board approved a resolution increasing the cost of living allowance (COLA) for the region's workers.

The regional wage board approved the resolution on Sept. 4.

As a result of the additional COLA, workers in the nonagriculture sector would receive P260 in daily pay from P253. Workers in the agriculture sector would receive P220.50 a day from P213.50.

The last time the regional wage board adjusted pay was in June 2011.

Florencio Aguilos, coordinator of the regional wage board, said the "essence" of the purchasing power of the peso due to increasing prices of commodities is the main reason for the board's decision to increase current wages and adjust them.

The business sector, especially Tacloban Federation Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has opposed the COLA increase.

Go Tit Ching, head of the business group, said the adjustment was high. Go warned that the COLA increase would lead to retrenchment of workers.

But Aguilos shrugged off the opposition of the business sector, saying that it was an expected reaction from businessmen.

Aguilos said the regional wage board has submitted the COLA increase order for consideration to the National Wages Productivity Commission.

After the commission confirms the order, it would be published in a newspaper of regional circulation and would take effect 15 days after.

TENT CITY Displaced by heavy monsoon rains, a woman (left photo) carries her child in Tent City, a temporary evacuation center in Bay, Laguna. Life goes on (At right, evacuees huddle around a newborn baby. Bulletin's Magpe—Sto. Domingo, San Antonio, San Isidro, Tigaraspay, Mabitac and Cilla—evacuate under 1 to 5-feet deep waters. Tropical Depression "Karen" is expected to enter the country.

# 282 Pinoys arrive from Syria; 300 more stay put

By Jovanie Aning

TOP GOVERNMENT officials yesterday welcomed 282 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) fleeing the civil war in Syria.

It was the biggest single repatriation urgent, and between the two governments since the Philippines issued a mandatory evacuation alert in December last year in response to escalating violence in the Middle Eastern state.

Over 1,000 OFWs, however, have apparently chosen to stay in Syria.

Her President Aquino Henry Swiggs Government Albert del Rosario and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) Chief Carmelita Nitorreda welcomed in the morning of batch of 283 OFWs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia) on board Jordan Aviation flight (JO-457) chartered by the International Board International Organization for Migration. A second batch of 10 OFWs arrived later in the afternoon on board Air Emirates Airways flight.

### Syria survivors

The OFWs erupted into cheers after entering the Nia's holding area. Some held up a large handmade placard which said "Syria OFW Survivor."

Most of them were female domestic who went to Syria despite a week ban imposed by the Philippine government. They are considered "illegals" in the Philippines although many of them have legal work contracts in Syria.

Binay said the "undocumented" OFWs are still considered "victims of human trafficking" and the circumstances of their deployment were being investigated by the government's Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking.

The evacuees said they were happy to be back. "We were losing hope almost being able to leave Syria. It's scary [to see employer's house]. Because there's gunfire and explosions everyday, especially at night," said one of the OFWs, who said she originally came from Lebanon.

### Happy to be home

"Despite the hardships we endured, we are happy because we will be seeing our families at last," added her companion.

The batch included some who had run away from their employers, complaining of maltreatment and labor rights violations.

The returnees had been sheltered at the Philippine Embassy for months but were unable to leave because of misconception of exit requirements, such as employers' clearance and immigration fines and penalties.

The embassy said it experienced difficulties negotiating with the OFWs' employers, some of whom they said refused to hold while others refused letting their domestic workers leave due to unfinished service contracts.

Del Rosario stated Syria has seen to request waivers of the exit visas, negotiations with employers and payment of immigration penalties. That was granted by Syrian President Bashar Assad through Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem.

When asked if the OFWs were exposed to immediate danger in the ongoing civil war in Syria, Del Rosario replied, "Damascus is fairly normal. It's business as usual during the daytime. In the evenings you can hear occasional explosions. The escalating violence is happening in the provinces, such as Aleppo, Homs and Hama, which are under siege. The people are coming [to the embassy] from all over Syria."

### Stress debriefing

Domestic Secretary said the OFWs will be sent to the agency's halfway house for "stress debriefing." She said the OFWs would also be given free transportation to their homes.

Binay, who is concurrently the presidential adviser on OFW affairs, said the workers from Syria, even if they were "illegals," could avail of benefits from the government's reintegration program such as loans, skills training, setting up of small businesses.


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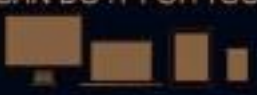

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# Puno breaks silence, quits; P-Noy 'no coddler'

From page A1

ity and pressed. Violating the confidential nature of my duties may expose people to danger or jeopardize critical operations," Puno began his statement.

### Why I kept quiet

"Since I am duty-bound to act with restraint and circumspection, even when subjected to personal attacks in the mass media. This is why I have opted not to react to the speculative accusations that have been hurled against me by some media opportunists," he said. (See timeline below.)

Puno, described by the President as his "boss" and "ours" in the DILG, has been summoned to appear in a Senate inquiry on Friday over his "unique" position in the Aquino administration.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that "as far as I know, Undersecretary Puno is willing to defend himself. What is clear from the statements was that the President mentioned Undersecretary Puno's position of Secretary Jesse Robredo ... There were some confidential documents in the condominium of Secretary Jesse Robredo. He took it upon himself in his initiative to also ensure that the documents in the condominium be also secured ... But, again, when you say secured, nothing is to be brought out, nothing is to be touched. So, in fact as we know, the inventories of the President were carried out by Undersecretary Puno."

Lacierda told reporters that Puno submitted on Friday his resignation letter through Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., who is officer in charge of the DILG.

"The President has accepted Mr. Puno's resignation effective immediately," said Lacierda, who described the sudden secretary's move as "commendable."

"It clears the air that what some people refer to as IDE (Intelligent, Ruthless or Relentless) is not true," he said, referring to claims that the President coddled his friends, classmates and shooting buddies.

"This is a development that certainly would put to rest all those accusations of the fact that Undersecretary Puno is close to the President and he's being coddled and that's not true," he added.

Mr. Lacierda, who sent a copy of Puno's resignation letter to reporters in Russia due to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Summit in Russia on Sunday night and had a chat with Puno on Monday, did not offer any government post to Puno, Lacierda said.

"There's no need to that effect," he said.

The President earlier said Puno continued to have his trust and confidence. His resignation pushed out that he himself took responsibility for the hostage fiasco two months into his presidency that was blamed on Puno. Eight Hong Kong tourists died in the botched caught by international TV networks.

### 'Selfless act'

The ABS-CBN report also said that at the time of his death, Robredo was investigating matters for the acquisition of firearms by the national police involving Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who said her late husband was not investigating Puno.

Puno remained quiet, said yesterday.

While he had not seen the resignation letter, Lacierda said Puno "resigned voluntarily" and was not forced to quit.

"Resignation is always a selfless act ... Especially in terms of, in the midst of a difficult situation ... it certainly is commendable that the official concerned resigns on his own accord," Lacierda said.

When asked if the acceptance of his resignation means he had lost the President's trust, Lacierda said: "It doesn't follow ... Again, that is a resignation that [undersecretary Puno has ... This is a matter of action that he decided to do."

Lacierda signified intentions that the his resignation could be an offshoot of moves by some government officials to ease him out of the DILG. He said the President met with Puno on Monday in Malacañang but could not provide details.

### Senate inquiry

He said it was up to Puno whether to appear at the Senate inquiry called by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. "As far as we know, he's ready to explain," he said.

Lacierda also said that Puno was in a "better position" to explain why he decided to quit while claiming he only followed orders to ensure Robredo's coffins.

### Confidential missions

In his statement, Puno provided a timeline of his actions from the time he received orders from the President to secure Robredo's office hours after Robredo's plane crashed on the afternoon of Aug. 18 to the time he led police troops in securing Robredo's three coffins and his apartment the next day.

Puno said that for the past two years, he had carried out specific assignments in accordance with the President's mandate.

"We have introduced reforms to ensure full transparency of procurement and bidding processes. We have streamlined those processes to achieve the President's objective of getting 'the biggest bang for the buck' in providing basic equipment to enable our uniformed personnel to perform their tasks effectively," Puno said.

RICO E. PUNO: Violating the confidential nature of my duties may expose people to danger

## Statement of Undersecretary Rico E. Puno

AS UNDERSECRETARY FOR PEACE AND ORDER in the DILG, I am entrusted with duties and responsibilities that involve outer confidence, security and personal. Violating the confidential nature of my duties may expose people to danger or jeopardize critical operations. Hence, I am duty-bound to act with restraint and circumspection, even when subjected to personal attacks in the mass media. This is why I have opted not to react to the speculative accusations that have been hurled against me by some media opportunists.

This is the chronology of events that transpired on Aug. 19 and 20, 2012, as I followed the orders of the President.

**Saturday, Aug. 18**

**2045 H (8:45 p.m.)** Boarded the Cebu Pacific flight to Manila. Without I was about to board, the President telephoned and requested me to secure the office of Interior Secretary Robredo. I relayed the instructions to Supt. Oliver Tanseco, deputy chief of the Office of Internal Security in Secretary Robredo's office.

**2220 H (10:20 p.m.)** Arrived in Manila (Ninoy Aquino International).

**2230 H (11:30 p.m.)** Proceeded to the PNP Director General's (PDG) residence at Camp Crame where Director Gen. Nicanor Bartolome, PNP Director for Operations Police Director Alan Purisima, Mr. Austere Panadero, a member of Secretary Robredo's staff and SUSupt. Tanseco.

The President called again and I requested the officers here I have secured.

**Sunday, Aug. 19**

**0900 H (9:00 a.m.)** Supervised sealing of Secretary Robredo's office at DILG Quezon City accompanied by the following: Lt. Supt. Joel Pagdilao, Supt. Oliver Tanseco, Chief Supt. Apollo Taguinod and other security officers of Secretary Robredo.

**0930 H (9:30 a.m.)** Informed by Superintendent Tanseco that there were documents inside the vault drawer condominium of his Secretary.

**1000 H (10:00 a.m.)** Led team to secure Secretary Robredo's condominium unit, stayed in condominium lobby. Instructed team to sign condominium visitor's log book to document our presence. Informed condominium after about 45 minutes.

**1030 H (10:30 a.m.)** Arrived at Camp Crame and supervised sealing of Secretary Robredo's office, left Camp Crame after about 15 minutes.

**1130 H (11:30 a.m.)** Arrived at National Police Commission (Napolcom) building in Makati City, supervised sealing of Secretary Robredo's office, left after about 30 minutes.

**1500 H (3:00 p.m.)** Accompanied secretary of Justice and Presidential Security Group team that performed inspection, sealing and securing of Secretary Robredo's: a) DILG office; b) condominium unit; c) Camp Crame office; and d) Napolcom office. Inspection team completed at around 7 p.m.

When the President asked me to serve in the DILG, he implored that we needed to strengthen the institution so that our uniformed personnel will become truly servants and protectors of our people. For the past two years, I have carried out specific assignments in accordance with the President's mandate.

We have introduced reforms to ensure full transparency of procurement and bidding processes. We have streamlined those processes to achieve the President's objective of getting "the biggest bang for the buck" in providing basic equipment to enable our uniformed personnel to perform their tasks effectively.

I believe that I have carried out my assigned duties to the best of my ability.

Monday forward, I have resigned as DILG Undersecretary to support the President's decision to give a free hand to the incoming Secretary in forming a new team.

I wish to thank President Aquino for his trust and confidence in giving me the opportunity to serve our country and people.

**September 11, 2012**

# Leni won't be at Senate inquiry: Let me grieve

From page A1

view that Puno was being investigated by Jesse. What I said was Jesse told me a lot of things," she said, in response to a reporter asking.

"Whatever was worth relating, I passed them on to the people who can work on them. I told them I did not want to have anything to do with it, so I won't become involved in private life in the meantime," said the widow, who was battling tonsillitis.

### Personal papers

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday that she had received word from Robredo's former aide in the DILG, Domenia T. Ramos, that the widow would be unable to attend the Senate hearing on Friday.

In separate interviews, Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on cession of votes and rules which is conducting the inquiry, would get from Lorelei Fajardo the personal papers that the widow had instructed Jesse Robredo before his time in condominium unit two days after the plane crash.

Dr. Lina said reporters on Monday that she gave Leni Robredo the documents sealed in an envelope she fled, leaving. She also said that Puno was in the Robredo apartment hours before she went there but that she understood that the maid did not allow Puno to enter the premises on instructions from the widow.

Santiago said it was unfortunate that Leni Robredo could not make it to the Senate hearing.

"There could have been a lot of factual details Mrs. R can provide which we are left with no clue except those which might be elicited from witnesses presently," she said. What is definite, Santiago said, is that Puno "can no longer hide certain facts because Mrs. Robredo would have these in her possession."

Earlier reports said Robredo had written reports about the alleged involvement of government officials in illegal activities, including smuggling, jueteng and misdirected logging.

Santiago said Puno's presence of interest in the papers was "the only conclusion you can reach."

"The only conclusion is that inside the house was something that he could not afford to be exposed, that he wants to control something personally isn't that so," Santiago asked.

SANTIAGO: Puno can no longer hide certain facts

LENI ROBREDO: I did not say that Puno was under investigation

### Questions for the widow

In Leni Robredo's absence, the senator said her committee would still determine if the widow could present "documentary evidence" the documents retrieved from the apartment.

"If the answer is still negative, I'm not going to issue a subpoena on her out of courtesy for the immense grief that unfortunate lost at this time. We'll just try to acquire this information from other sources," Santiago said in an ambush interview.

Had the widow agreed to attend the hearing, Santiago said she would have asked her:

- About the working relationship between Robredo and Puno;
- Her reaction to the undersecretary's failure to "observe etiquette" by asking her permission to enter their condominium unit "instead [of] barging in there and shooting the maid one of the locks;"
- Why Leni Robredo declined to give permission to "no less than" the undersecretary of the Presidential to see and answer documents.

### Jueteng, DILG setup

Santiago said she would challenge Puno to give concrete evidence that he had conducted jueteng two points after the officer served an request where Puno was named as a protector of the illegal numbers racket.

"Even if the police would say "we have witnessed their activities inside by Inday ... still, how much time do you really need to [eliminate jueteng]," she asked.

The senator said she would ask Puno to explain the "irregular" setup in the DILG under Robredo where the undersecretary for operations was in charge supervision over the Philippine National Police. The department minus the DILG secretary as ex-officio chair of the Napolcom, a situation that gives him control over police supervision over the PNP.

Santiago said Puno's exclusive jurisdiction over the PNP violates the Administrative Code.

The senator gave a hearty laugh after she was told Puno had resigned.

"That's history. He had no choice as we don't even need to brood about it. We don't even have to activate what he did because ... he should have done it earlier and he would have gained immense points from the public," she said.

# Mar: No results of crash probe yet

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ing to happen.

"It was established that there was no foul play. Maybe it was an accident that was starting to happen," said Roxas, who was riding with DAAP Director General William Hotchkiss III later asked for a closed door session when Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. asked about efforts to investigation the plane crash.

Aquino said the engine of the Piper Seneca plane, manufactured in 1972, had to be changed and the plane inspected after logging certain flying hours.

He said these were part of the standard operating procedures, but did not confirm whether the ill-fated plane had gone through all this.

### Plane theories

Roxas said Andrews' remarks "were unauthorized albeit elicited from a joint congressional committee hearing to look into the cause of the accident."

"They are mere possible theories and not the result of a complete, impartial and thorough probe of the Special Investigation Committee created by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Commissioner Kim Henares right after the fatal plane crash," he said.

### Premature

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, deputy presidential spokesperson, stated that Andrews' statements were premature because the CAAP investigation was still ongoing.

"For that remark that was made by Captain Andrews, if I may say, premature, it was a premature statement. At this all time, the CAAP is still conducting the investigation. We would like to hold off on any initial information," Valte said in a briefing.

She said it would be "best for all of us to wait until the CAAP itself releases the results of the investigation."

Given the importance of his position and the investigation of sensitive matters that he had launched, Robredo's death set off speculations that the plane crash was attended by foul play.

Robredo died with the pilot and co-passenger Jim Alcasid when the plane crashed in the waters off Masbate City while on its way to Naga City from Cebu. Six pilots aside survived.

### Probe still ongoing

Valte said he would be prudent for everyone to wait for the final outcome of the investigation by the CAAP.

"The investigation is still ongoing. We would rather that the investigation be finished first before any statements are made. It's difficult to talk while the investigation is ongoing and when the evidence has not been scrutinized," she said.

Revilla, a member of the congressional joint committee said that the CAAP would be the best source of its findings on the plane crash that killed Robredo.

"I don't want to preempt that report. Let's wait for what its officials have to say. They are going to report to the President," the senator told the reporters yesterday.

Revilla said he would rather defer to Defensor-Santiago because he said Robredo's family what caused the crash instead of revealing what was told to him behind closed doors on Monday.

### Survivor's account

Besides, the senator said the CAAP had yet to complete its probe. Announcing the results of its initial efforts could adversely affect the final outcome, he added.

Revilla said the CAAP report would contain an account from Robredo's aide, Jane Alasasala, who survived the tragedy.

"The CAAP got a statement from him. It was complete. It would be included in the report," the senator said. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Pia Cayetano and Cathy Remauro

# Philex facing almost ₱1B in new fines for tailings leak

By DJ Yap

THE COUNTRY'S biggest gold producer is facing almost ₱1 billion in new fines for sediment spills in its tailings dam in Benguet province.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje yesterday said Philex Mining Corp. might be slapped with "double or triple" the ₱525 million in fines earlier computed for leaks in one of its tailings ponds because of six additional spills in the facility straddling Itogon and Tuba towns.

On top of that, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to impose ₱200,000-a-day penalty for the spills since Aug. 2, when the sediment material, under the Clean Water Act, Paje said.

Mike Toledo, Philex Mining Corp. senior vice president for corporate affairs, described the penalties as "premature and a violation of due process."

"It's quite unfortunate that we just found out from the media that the DENR will be sending us a contractor of penalties which they had estimated. For us, it is premature and a violation of due process that it had been announced before we were even informed of their evaluation," Toledo said in a phone interview.

## Aerial survey

In a press briefing, Paje said photos and footages taken from an unmanned aircraft used to survey the extent of the spill in one of Philex's tailings ponds showed the extent of the spill.

"We are still computing the penalty. But it is much higher than the ₱525 million ... how there is a possibility to double or triple the penalty depending on the factors we will use," he said.

The computation had to be done "very scientifically," Paje said. "The number of cubic meters of the spill should be established by 1:5 to get the density of the material and convert it to metric tons ... then the result is multiplied by P525 per metric ton. That's our computation."

## Contested computation

But the official conceded that Philex might still contest the density factor of 1:5 and argue for a 1:3. "We had a laboratory test and based on our computation, it is really 1:5. Of course, the company can still somehow contest. But we have scientific basis," he said.

Because of the leaks, sediments from the facility flow into the Bued River, a tributary of the Agno River, which is the source of water of rice fields in Pangasinan province.

Paje gave the assurance that the dam has not been affected. "Where San Roque was constructed, they put up a dead storage for the silt. That's a lesson from Pantabangan Dam, whose life was reduced by siltation. The dead storage is a storage for all the silt. If you want to do silt, it's deposited in just one corner," he said.

The objective now, he said, is to plug the drain tunnel and stop the leakage from the tailings pond.

## 'Accidental'

"The discharge was accidental as the rate volume was way above the recorded normal volume in the past," Toledo said. "We practice responsible mining and we stand by what we have said that whatever obligations must be complied with, we will comply."

As of yesterday morning, Philex was still looking for the source of a leak in its water facility, intending to inject concrete to stop more sedimentation from exiting to tailings dam and flowing toward a Benguet river channel, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Baguio City.

Earlier, Fay Apil, MGB Cordillera director, said work crews were trying to calculate the tonnage of the fractures at the base of the dam, where waste expelled by the firm's Padcal mine has been consistent since 1992.

Once the workers determine the vulnerable spots inside the dam, engineers plan to drill into the facility and pump in liquid cement "to intercept the flow of sediment," Apil said.

## 4th leak

Philex reported that it had detected leaks in its tailings dam on Aug. 2, prompting Apil to order the company to cease operations the next day, pending an investigation as well as repairs of the mine's waste containment structure. Last week, the mine detected a fourth leak amid continuing rains.

Padcal mine, one of the country's pioneer mines which began operations in 1956, was due for decommissioning in 2011, but cabinet would conditionally allowed Philex to extend its mine life to 2028.

Rehabilitation work is delicate and takes a long process, given the impact of the monsoon season, April said.

## Non-toxic

Last week, Philex said the substances discharged through the leaks were non-toxic, citing a 66-page report from the Padcal mill division.

It also confirmed that the Padcal mine had been using biodegradable chemicals to separate copper from ore.

"In actual operations, the amount of the reagents carried with the tailings are extremely small or negligible," Philex said in a statement. It cited an Aug. 9 metallurgical report prepared by Reynold Ibbos, chief of Philex mining mill division in Benguet.

April said the report was transmitted to the MGB during its initial inspection of the first leak. A second team had been deployed this week, following confirmation of the Aug. 30 leak.

"We are validating that report," she said. "The major concern of government is the minerals inside the copper pyrite ... they are extract from the ore, because these are mixed with the tailings and would be hazardous if mixed with the environment. We need to confirm that these minerals were not discharged with the sediment."

Philex has put up transitions for workers and volunteers of a cleanup crew to rehabilitate Balog Creek where the tailings flowed.

With reports from Rino Nicholas Abad, Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

WATER QUALITY TEST A Philex Mining Corp. worker checks the quality of run-off water discharged through this pipe channel in the firm's Padcal operations in Benguet in this photo taken in December last year.

# Gov't issues new mining rules: It's a high-wire act

From page A1

said regulations (RRMs) that fleshed out Executive Order No. 79, the centerpiece of the government's mining reforms program.

In a press briefing in Quezon City, Paje described the guidelines as "very balanced," saying these were crafted from inputs from the mining industry, civil society, environment groups and local governments.

"My stakeholders were interested in," he said.

But the environment chief made it clear that the mining policy is unanimously biased for preserving the environment when choosing between it and coming huge mining revenues.

"If it's a question of choosing between the environment and the value of copper and gold, the choice of government is very clear. We have to protect the environment," Paje said.

## 'No-go' mining zones

EO 79 expands the "no-go" mining zones in the country to include 15 ecozone sites, farms, marine sanctuaries and island ecosystems in response to public clamor to shield the environment from mining intrusion. Previously, only protected areas were no-go zones.

This provision was further made clear under the guidelines. "All pending mining applications situated within any of the areas closed to mining shall be forthwith denied upon effectivity of the EO," according to the RRMs.

"This means they no longer have any chance of being approved," Paje said.

The same order imposes a moratorium on the grant of new mining agreements. "small" tungsten shall have some up with a revenue sharing scheme between the government and mining firms."

The RRM stipulates that "mining rights shall be granted only to those able to strictly comply with environmental management need, among other requirements, pursuant to the applicable provision of Republic Act No. 7942," or the Mining Act of 1995.

## Disqualified persuasively

One provision states that all mining applicants with a record of environmental incidents, such as destructive tailings spills and failed to remedy them or adequately as per government regulations, "shall be permanently disqualified" from acquiring mining rights and operating mining projects.

Under the guidelines, small-scale miners are only allowed to operate in sites identified as "Minahang Bayan" and they may extract only gold, silver and chromite.

To curb the rampant smuggling of gold, the sale of the precious metal shall be allowed only to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and its accredited buyers, according to the RRMs.

## Harmonizing laws

RO 79 also seeks consistency between local ordinances, the Constitution and national laws.

Responding to this point, Paje said the Mining Industry Coordinating Council would defer to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in harmonizing local ordinances and national laws.

"They (DILG) have to encourage LGUs to review their ordinances and members be accountable for what they pass. There is a procedure to annul date illegal measures, but until and time that the procedure has been followed, we will still respect their issuances," he said.

"The (LGU) is authorized to violate national laws, as they have to be accountable," Paje said. "For example, can LGUs pass legislations saying abortion is already allowed? Of course it's contrary to national law," he said.

But at the same time, he pointed out that under RA 7160, or the Local Government Code, "if you are going to interpret, it should always be interpreted in favor of local autonomy."

## Classic example

"That is why we feel that and we believe that until a particular ordinance is rendered invalid through a certain procedure, we will respect the ordinance," Paje said.

A classic example is a South Cotabato ordinance banning open pit mining, which, according to the secretary runs counter to the government's mining policy.

"Until such time that the environmental code of South Cotabato is rendered invalid, or a portion thereof, we recognize that the ordinance issued by South Cotabato is considered valid," Paje said.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

# Azkals yield to Laotians in ill-tempered 'friendly'

By Cedrif F. Tupas

UNABLE to build on its strong performance against Singapore, the Philippines absorbed a 1-2 loss to lower-ranked Laos Monday night in an ill-tempered showdown in Montalvo that capped its three-country Southeast Asian training session in preparing the squad for the AFF Suzuki Cup later this year.

The Azkals succeeded two second-half penalty kicks which the Laotians duly converted, before grabbing a late consolation goal from defender Erik Ung, who scored his first international goal in the second minute of stoppage time.

Playing three third matches on six days, the Azkals missed top striker Phil Younghusband, his brother, Neven, who flew back to Manila Saturday, and Jerry Lucena, who remained in Denmark after The 2-0 win over Singapore last Friday.

The tourist enemy Azkals stunned with little purpose and struggled to cope with the fluid passing of the Laotians, who extended their unbeaten streak against the Philippines to nine matches.

But the match will be remembered more for its ill-tempered nature, particularly the outbursts in the second half when Mingh Bahadoran was sent off along with a Laotian player.

Prior to the melee, replays showed that the 19-year-old was struck in the mouth after getting tangled with a Laos defender.

LAOTIAN players (blue) gang up on Azkals goalkeeper Neil Etheridge who tries to come to the rescue of teammate Mingh Bahadoran

Azkals manager Dan Palami offered no excuses, saying that Laos deserved the win.

"It was a heated, physical and highly competitive game that we wanted to win badly but there do not excuse some of our players for losing their temper," said Palami. "Mr. Bah apologizes for the incident."

Minutes later, Stephan Schrock and Anton Subiaran joining with another Laotian player, Keovilay phet Lithideth, while another player was seen throwing a punch, almost sparking a free for all.

The Azkals' formation hardly changed after the incidents and minutes later, Laos doubled the advantage with Vitay Phaboonsane slotting home a penalty after he was brought down by Neil Etheridge.

Mehdi Abdeli sent a left-footed effort high and wide, before Medrano volleyed over seven minutes from time as the Azkals grew desperate.

Gier's goal came from a long throw-in from Zakie, whose ball appeared to have touched a Laos defender's hand before falling kindly to Gier knocking in past him.

# SSC rips Navy; Ateneo bags it

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN JUAN—San Sebastian put a lock on the top spot with a straight-sets victory that also gave Ateneo a free ride to the Final Four.

Led by the power-hitting Jeng Bunino, the Lady Stags made quick work of Philippine Navy, 25-18, 25-12, 25-20, to secure the No. 1 seeding with a 9-1 record at the end of the Shakey's Villa-Gaga Open elimination yesterday at Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Santiago victory unseated the Lady Eagles as the outright passage to the semifinals as the Lady Sailors bowed out with a 2-8 record.

Philippine Army also secured the second spot at 9-2 following a 22-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-16 triumph over the Emilio Aguinaldo College in the second game.

Rachel Ann Daquis unloaded 22 points, while Michelle Gumabao and Joanne Bunag scored 12 and 10 to help the defending champion secure its own share.

Bunino fired all but one of her 22 points on spikes, nearly half of the Lady Stags' 46 total in the 62-minute match.

Sandugo coach Roger Gorayeb said his crew played with little pressure as Thai Unchana Kanoknig and Angela Benting also chipped in.

"Ish were relaxed because we knew we had the No. 1 spot," said Gorayeb.

Kanoknig drilled seven of her 11 points on kills, while Benting added eight numbers.

Navy had feared for a win coupled with an Ateneo loss in the nightcap to forge a playoff for the last semifinal berth.

The hero-of-three semifinals stars today with Army and Cagayan battling at 4 p.m. and Santiago clashing with Ateneo at 6 tonight.

The Lady Stags downed the Lady Eagles on opening day, 27-25, 25-18, 25-20, before securing a repeat, 20-20, 25-17, 25-15, 25-20, in the second round.

HEADY PLAY Navy Reese Jay Palma of Far Eastern slams one in off Joanne Bunag of Army in yesterday's game.

# Clamor grows for MVP to seek POC post

By Jane Manaris

PANGILINAN

THERE'S a growing clamor for the Most Valuable Person of Philippine sports to take over the management of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

POC spokesperson Joey Romero said yesterday that several national sports associations are amenable to a plan to install Senate Majority V. Pangilinan as president or chair of the national Olympic body.

Romero said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco is open to a compromise should Pangilinan agree to the call of the shots.

"A workable arrangement can always be discussed," said Romero. "I hope MVP would heed the clamor. He would be a blessing to Philippine sports."

Seeking a third straight term as POC chief, Cojuangco has no challengers yet in the POC elections slated Nov. 20.

"Greg Peping to agree to a compromise if it's for the good of the POC," said Romero. "Like his businesses, MVP can manage the POC professionally."

Pangilinan, a telecommunications magnate who also has vast interests in aviation, health care, highway construction and mining, among others, is the president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and chair of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

He is also a generous supporter of badminton, taekwondo, cycling, tennis, running and football through his MVP Sports Foundation.

In the absence of a challenger, Cojuangco could get a fresh four-year mandate from the POC general assembly by acclamation, just like in 2004 when he first took over the body.

For an election to push through, though, three-fourths of the POC's 43 voting members should call for the poll exercise.

Cojuangco won the 2008 POC polls, 21-19, over former shooting head Art Monzon.

JOINED, Alcala remains a crew mystery but despite his misfortunes in Selangor.

# P. Verdes Classic fires off; Hong, Ababa heavy faves

DAMGAN Hong hopes to maintain the fiery form that gave him a breakthrough pro-win last week as he runs off in the Rancho Palos Verdes Classic of the ICTSI Tour today in Davao.

The 26-year-old Hong, who topped the venerable Richard Stallcups in the three playoff holes last Friday, will be shooting for a place in the elite company of players who won back-to-back legs in the circuit.

Ironically the same field will be playing in the P1-million event, save for the addition of Jamil Alaba, a son of the province tipped as one of the rising pro stars of the country.

Alaba competed for the Royal Selangor Masters event in Malaysia last week only to get sacked in the final round, where he shot an 80 to finish last among those who made the weekend cut.

Alaba has remained relatives after producing three victories last year. But he would not have any hometown edge to speak since he learned the game at Apo Golf.

Rancho Palos Verdes is a totally different layout than Apo and every long hitter has a chance on the well-manicured course, which rewards length off the tee and a solid putting stroke.

The men's superstars are out of the Palos Verdes leg because of commitments abroad, making it a whole-open race.

Marvin Dumanchat, Border Asuncion and Carlito Cano are the veterans in the field.

*Manuel A. Castillo*

# Suarez, Flores rule Bacolod age-group tilt

STERN Suarez and Ronina Flores demand their respective rivals in straight sets to capture the 18-and-under crowns in the 2010 Philta-Unilever Powerhog Regional Age-Group Championships presented by Bibelot at Crimer Court Tennis Club in Bacolod City recently.

Suarez, son of former Davis Cuppers Raymond Suarez, rolled past fellow Bacolod-Visayan, 4-1, 3-3, in the boys' finals while the second-seeded Flores obliterated top seed Dionelyn Perez, 9-0, 4-0, in the girls' finals.

Suarez also took the 16-11 title with a 4-3, 4-0 over of Jose Fernando Segarilles while No. 2 Godfrey Sean of Cebu and East Asian of PH Cotton City won the boys' 14-U and 12-U crowns with 4-1, 4-0 and 4-1, 4-1 victories over Segarilles and Montenegro Flores, respectively.

"We were impressed by these young players' talent and skills," said Philta regional vice president Bobby Cayjan.

**Other finals results**—14-under: Cotton Jay (GMR) PI-1 (over Montenegro, 4-2, 2-4, 10-7; girls' 16-U: Jessa Mae Bendal of San Jose Recreation, 2-4, 4-2, 10-5, 10-5—Raymonde S. Alcalde, Bacolod-Visayan, 5-3, 4-1, 10-6—4. Sabio-Aragon of Talisay Beaches, 4-1, 4-2.

# Midas Touch hosting PH Poker Tour's 5th leg tomorrow

MIDAS Touch Poker Sports Club will host the inaugural season of the P10-million Philippine Poker Tour as it stages the fifth leg of the nationwide series starting tomorrow at Pasay City.

The six-day event, which despites a guaranteed purse of P1 million, begins at 3 p.m. Buy-in is P5,000.

A road circuitous for this remaining six events in next year's duration of Champions, among monthly cruise-event winners are penciled after agahma veteran Martin Zarpus came from nowhere to take the fourth leg at the Metro Cam Club last month.

Gerzon Ong pulled away in the Player of the Year race, which puts pressman on participants in the 10-day tour.

The world-ranked Ong posts the player derby with 525 points. Trailing champion Rene Pacayuza second with 350, followed by Jojo Tech with 340.

# Jones Cup-winning Smart Gilas squad flies to Tokyo

By Mwaeng N. Castillo

SMART Gilas Pilipinas leaves for Japan today to open action in the fourth Fiba Asia Cup (formerly Stankovic Cup), looking to land at least a top three finish to be able to head straight to the Fiba Asia World Championship qualifying court pool.

Together for more than a month now and with a Jones Cup tucked under its belt, the team will be up for a tougher test in the capital city of Tokyo, with Qatar bracketed with the Filipinos in Group A together with Lebanon.

After playing full friendlies in Japan and winning the Jones Cup against the United States, it is safe to say that the Philippines could be the most accessed side that will come to Japan.

But ex-Olympian Freddie Webb, speaking during the successful PBA Press Corps Awards Night on Monday, said that he expects the Filipinos to do well.

"These guys (Smart Gilas II), we have to salute them. Nobody took a second look at their team," Webb, a member of the 1972 PH Team to the Munich Games, said. "What made that team good is that they have courage.

"These guys went all out all because of love of country. You have to have a team that is hungry to perform and this team deserved it. We became proud again," he added referring to Gilas' Asian camp.

Coach Chot Reyes, late like he did before leaving for Taipei, is not flaunting the hopes of his loaded multi-entry contract.

"We haven't had coach programs the past week because of the two-a-day practices the players have with their mother PBA teams," Reyes said. "We're just hoping for the best in Japan."

Like they did in the Jones Cup, especially against taller teams here and the US, Smart Gilas will have speed as its primary weapon, Reyes said.

LA Tenorio heads that speedy bunch with Gabe Norwood, Jeff Chan, Larry Fonacier and Gary David providing the bulk of the scoring together with reserve Ilootin.

"It's going to be tough," Doublet said also Monday. "But we have a great group of guys here who really play hard."

# 'Young' PH Cuppers upbeat vs Indonesians

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier-Philippine Davis Cup team, fielding its youngest team in years, remains confident when it tackles a formidable Indonesia side in the Davis Cup Group 2 Zonals this week in Jakarta.

The Filipinos left Sunday for the Sept. 14 to 16 tie date doubles schedule team owners-up to Group 1.

With an average age of 23 years old and half of their made-up of homegrown players, the 98t Cuppers will attempt to stop a team that is built around a tough veteran in Christopher Rungkat, who led the Indonesians in last year's Southeast Asian Games and is a previous tie against Thailand.

"We will go up against a hometown crowd but we are ready," said team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier of his team made up of 27-year-olds Treat Huey and Hubert Gonzales, 19-year-old Jason Patcombao and 20-year-old Francis Casey Alcantara.

The Philippines won four of the past nine net ties against Indonesia including the last one in 2008.

Rungkat, the 22-year-old ranked No. 393th in the world in singles, spearheaded a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Thailand last April to their Davis Cup Group 2 semifinals also held in Gelora Bung Karno tennis stadium in Jakarta.

# Grand Slam search ends for Murray

ANDY Murray still fly home to a hero's welcome after ending Britain's 76-year Grand Slam drought.

NEW YORK—It took Andy Murray only six minutes shy of five hours to win the US Open final on Monday night, yet that was only a blink of an eye compared with the 76-years-British had waited to have a men's champion in a Grand Slam event.

The 25-year-old Scotsman bore defending champion Novak Djokovic, 7-6 (10), 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2, to end not only Britain's known-run but his own, having previously lost all four grand slam finals he had played.

After taking a two-set lead, then squandering it, then gliding himself for the deciding fifth set, Murray brought the first major men's title back to Britain since Fred Perry in 1936.

"I need a little bit on the court," said Murray. "You're not red. You're incredibly happy. You're in a little bit of disbelief because when I have been in that position many times before and not won, do you think, is it even going to happen?"

If there's one other person aware of how difficult those things are to win a set, it's Murray's coach, Ivan Lendl. To prepare for the season, Murray hired Lendl, the Czech who lost to for first four trips to Grand Slam finals before breaking through at the French Open in 2084.

The first one under his belt, Lendl went on to win seven more.

"It was a very strange thing," the 52-year-old three-time US Open champion said. "I went, in one match, from a guy who can never come back to a guy who never gives up."

Lendl said Murray feels said it would take between six and nine months to see the results. "You could've see your match by that one. Murray won the Olympic gold medal and narrowly can home and Wimbledon. He closed out a gruelling summer of tennis by going 7 for 7 at Flushing Meadows.

And the last of those seven was the loss. The final included rallies that riders lasted 20, 25, 30 strokes—and one that went more 55.

It included 17 breaks of serve and 121 unforced errors—a number that often spoke of shaky play but in this case was a testament to the long-the-mind wrestled brave with seemingly every shot over those grueling five sets.

The 4 hours, 54 minutes tied a US open final record.

"It was an incredibly tough match, and it's felt great at the end," Murray said. "Relief is probably the best word I would use to describe how I'm feeling just now."

AP

# 'Athletic' Japeth impresses NBA D-League coach

By Jane Meneses

JAPETH Aguilar, the former PBA No. 1 pick, got impressive reviews after he showcased his skills before NBA and NBA Development League coaches and officials, according to the Asian Journal, a Filipino-American newspaper based in the United States.

Aguilar, who joined the Talk 'N Text in the PBA, caught the fancy of the NBA D-League squad Bakersfield Jam coaching staff during an open try out held recently at the Run Gos Angeles College.

"Japeth is an intriguing player," Jam head coach Will Voigt told the Asian Journal recently. "Obviously, he has length and athleticism. He's been playing as a four or a five (power forward/center) in the Philippines, we'll have to transition him into a three (small forward). But he's shown flashes throughout the weekend that makes you want to see more."

During the scrimmage, Aguilar scored 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting, pulled down four rebounds, blocked five shots and had an assist in a 62-46 losing effort for his team. More than 80 players joined the tryouts last Saturday. Coaches trimmed the list to 20 with Aguilar among those who made the cut.

THINGS are looking good for Vincent Floirendo's (inset) back-to-back championship bid after a recent crucial scrap.

# Floirendo upends Coseteng

ROXAS, Basayan—Defending champion Vincent Floirendo fared back Jody Coseteng and stopped a crucial stamp in the fifth and penultimate leg of the 2012 Yokohama Philippine GT Championship Series in Mindanao Racing Circuit to keep his quest for a back-to-back crown alive.

The triumph gave the Davao native a share of the lead with Coseteng for the GT200 crown at 217 points each and the top spot in the hunt for the coveted GT Driver of the Year of this event hosted by the Automobile Association Philippines.

A sweep of the 10-lap Sprint race and the 17-lap GT 90min finale allowed Floirendo to overhaul an 11-point deficit and set the stage for a year-to-see showdown against Coseteng on Oct. 9 at Clark International Speedway.

Bobby Unson finished in third in both races with Arnel Cortez and Tristan Dominique Mayor Dresden Portugal finishing fourth and fifth respectively.

Arnel Cortez also pulled a sweep to capture the GT2000 crown over his son Dwight Kevin and Rowena Micky Ilito of TRS Castrol Racing Team.

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## SPORTSWATCH

### SM Bowling Cup finals Sept. 16

TWENTY-FOUR Qualifiers will do battle in the finals of the 11th SM Bowling Cup second leg on Sept. 16 at SM Bowling Center Fairview.

The champion will receive a Chevrolet Orlando Crossover, the native prize and a P100,000 cash prize. Runner-up Jane Dela Cruz took home P120,000 while Pantaleon Angel Tolentino won P60,000.

For inquiries, visit SM Bowling Center locations or call Mall of Asia, North Edsa, Fairview, Cebu and Davao's nearest SM Supermalls or call 556-1506, 441-1502, 908-0525 and (088) 233-0006.

SM Bowling Center invites pins, located at the second floor of SM Supermalls' main concourse, during Saturday Kamikaze, Sun 13 session bowling here, Silver Stallion, PSG gaming and a number of head choices from the Steele Bar Alley.

### 2 brenders pace LGBA series

PSC Makati of Tarlac and Jerry Castro of Pangasinan drove the way with 3-points each in the Blonde of the Week race in the Lucio Gonzalez Bowlers Association 3 Man 6 Ring Derby series tournament this Friday at Pinedang Cubao.

Running second with 4-points apiece are Jun Bautista, Homer Yu, Nestor Alcantara, Jojo Gatmaytan, Bongo Zuniga, Tim Cheng, Jimmy Serrano, Dr. Danny Chuang, Ogie Serrano, Tony Lazarraga, Benny Lozano, Edwin Mendoza, Rodrick Pineda, LP Carbonilla, Polly Kua, Jay Gonzales, Michael Sembrano, Eric Alba Rivas, Leo Fernando and Lito Alba Pena.

More than 100 bights will be held on Friday, and LGBA president Ellwood Pineda.

The grand championships is on Oct. 1.



BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

# Coke contract dispute



IN HUDDLE
Beth Cerio

ALTHOUGH a group of 13 staff members of the Disbanded Coca-Cola franchise led by former PBA chairman governor Kenneth Duremdes sought the moderation of PBA commissioner Chito Salud in settling a dispute with management, the commissioner said it is best to allow the parties concerned "to settle the issue internally."

Kenneth sent the Coke jersey years ago before selling to Power ade's alternate governor in the PBA board. When the Pawnende franchise was recently sold to Mikee Romero's Sultan 900 Inc., he met other team members and even interview players were displeased.

Under the terms and conditions of the sale, the new owner was obliged to absorb only the active players of the team. From the officials and coaching staff, only assistant coach Bitoy Dandoy was retained.

* * *

Normally, if a team that disbands is left with contractual obligations as in the case of Powerade, the company offers to buy out the few contracts at a discounted price.

But in this particular case, Kenneth said he and his group were treated as office employees.

"Pesamente offered to pay us a month's salary for every year of service. For example, since I have rendered four years of service in the team, I can expect to get a terminal pay equivalent to four months' salary."

* * *

Like Kenneth, most of the staff members have contracts that will expire in August 2013.

"The issue that legally, the company is obliged to pay us 12 months' salary and not a month's pay for every year of service. This is taken on voluntarily perhaps and/or are absorbed by another team like local coach Bo Perasol, who will replace Norman Black at the Aeones bench after this season, or assistant coach Alex Compton, who will assume the same position with the Alaska Aces."

Kenneth and management in general there of value they need or receive when they were handed their wedding papers.

"Take it or leave it," that's what we were told."

Last Monday, amid the festivities at the PBA Press Corps Awards night, commissioner Salud tried to meet Kenneth Amontanos, who received 20 Rookie last before the team folded up. But Amontos was on a business trip abroad.

Most likely the commissioner was going to refer the counterfeit from Kenneth and his group.

"We have agreed to settle for 75 percent of our contract," the PBA legend said.

* * *

HOOPVIBE. Our condolences to the family of former San Miguel coach Ignacio "Nitag" Ramos who passed away recently ... Our heartfelt sympathies likewise to veteran photographer Tony La whose eldest brother Domingo died after a lingering illness ... It was 1984 legend Bogs Adornado who informed me of Nitag's demise. Nitag was Bogs' coach in the 1972 Munich Olympics team where we beat defending Asian champion Japan, African champion Senegal and Egypt.

# Bull Runner logs record early entrants

THE BULL Runner Invasion Marathon (TBRIM) sold out a record 750 slots within 48 minutes during its online registration recently.

The fourth edition of this event will be run in February next year in Newall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"We are absolutely elated, and... are hope to entertain beginners who would rank this as their first full marathon," says Jaymie Pizarro, TBRIM co-founder.

TBRIM was re-launched by James Lafferty in 2009, and aims to provide beginners to the running community a sensible of support. These include lectures and training programs during the 22-week build-up designed by Lafferty, an international marathoner.

For details, e-mail thr@thebullrun.com or call 0917-6286891.

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**DID YOU KNOW**

THE MANILA Police District posted the highest number of total crime volume among the police districts under the National Capital Region Police Office in September last year, with 1,611 cases. According to police data, around 55 percent of the crime volume in the district were classified as "solved" during the said period.
**Jaime Laude, Inquirer Research**

# 'Bistek' bows to anti-'epal' clamor

## Tiles on QC streets retouched to remove mayor's initials

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WHERE have all the "HBs" gone?

Those decorative tiles bearing the initials of Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, which have been installed on sidewalks, plaza benches and center islands across the city at taxpayers' expense, are now being retouched to erase those ubiquitous letters.

"Marunong naman pala si Bistek [who have been reinforcing it]," Quezon City engineering department head Joselito Cabungcal admitted yesterday when asked about the sudden decision to remove the HBs over.

The move could be seen as a victory for the growing civic and online movement against so-called *epal* politicians, or those who seek to take credit for government-funded projects or promote themselves in time for the next elections through billboards, streamers and, in Bautista's case, more enduring mediums like tiles. (See related story on Page A11.)

Epal is street slang for the Filipino term mapapel or one who craves attention, taken credit for other people's work, or needlessly meddles in their affairs.

"He illustrated 'wanted is removed' because people might think that it was for the abortion," Cabungcal told the Inquirer, referring to the Bistek-some mayor's former comedic service also known as "Bistek."

He said Bautista's order this year already expressed his intentions to have his initials removed.

But the city engineer denied that the mounting support for the anti-*epal* bill in Congress finally forced City Hall to act.

According to Cabungcal, "their bill is focused on legislative, cabinet and bureaucrat officials. I don't think his [Bautista's] initials on the tiles are covered."

On Visayas Avenue, for example, the HB tiles, each measuring 8 inches by 6 inches and placed about 5 meters from each other, had been installed on the center island.

A resident, who requested anonymity, said he started noticing the HB initials being painted over last month.

"I think it is already prohibited because of the anti-*epal* bill and [the law against] premature campaigning related to the elections next year," he said.

Cabungcal said the painting of the tiles to hide the initials was being done at no additional cost to the local government since the additional job was still covered by existing contracts for the beautification of city streets.

He said the tiles along Visayas Avenue, from Tandang Sora Avenue to Elliptical Road, had all been painted over.

WHERE TILES GO IN(G)? The "HB" tiles on Visayas Avenue (white circle) and after (above) the city government's decision to paint over the letters were amid criticisms directed at the officials who gave in those initials. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE

## How centuries-old UST copes with modern-day flood woes

By Erika Sauler

FOR ENGINEERS, the oldest university in town has endured the inscrutable law of Murphy situated in one of the most flood-prone areas in Manila.

During flash floods, hundreds of students at the University of Santo Tomas are often forced to suspend the night in their class rooms until the waters subside the next day.

But in recent years, a system that may be peculiar to UST has been in place to make the experience a little more bearable. It was again put to test on Saturday when over 1,500 students were prevented from leaving their buildings by the rising floodwaters on and around the 21.5-hectare campus, particularly on Espana Boulevard.

STUDENTS in Manila's university town brave the flood on Espana Boulevard. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

At four meters second to pick up a crowded students from the different colleges, so they could be gathered in one or two areas that serve as evacuation centers, where they are provided meals courtesy of the university.

Around 500 students stayed in the College of Accountancy building, where they were given barbecued for dinner, and champorado, canned sardines and cup noodles for breakfast, the inquirer learned.

Hundreds more stayed in the Main Building, the Albertus Magnus Center, the Arts & Letters Building and the Quadricentennial Pavilion. At one point, the "Q Pav" got overcrowded that the evacuations to that area had to be stopped.

The area also home to many trip gained thigh-deep floods on its paths. Inside the campus, the water was ankle-deep on the first floor of the UST Hospital.

The situation led to the suspension of Tuesday's classes.

The UST now has a Crisis Management Office for dealing with perennial flooding on campus. "We have a protocol to stems like

NOW SEE

## SM Cinema and FDCP sign contract for digitization of cinemas

Award-winning actor Ronnie Lazaro

(L-R) SM Cinema senior vice president Edgar Tejerero and Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chairman Briccio Santos

Embassy of Italy cultural attaché Ms. Emanuela Amanti

(L-R) Executive producer of Ang mga Kuwento ni Ronnie Lazaro' Elvie Ilao, director Raphael Montes, and actors Ronnie Lazaro and Soliman Cruz

Japan Foundation, Manila director Shoji Takanori

# NCRPO chief's tip to bulging men: Go easy on the rice

By Julie M. Aurelio

EDITOR'S NOTE: every day, limit your rice intake and be overvision, even to criminals.

Those were among the bits of advice dispensed yesterday by newly appointed National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina during a visit to the Quezon City Police District headquarters. (QCPD) as he went around to the different Metro police districts.

Espina, who like Philippine National Police chief Director General Maximo Rafolelon, sports a trim physique, urged policemen with jiel bellies to get themselves into shape so that they would be able to wear their uniform with pride.

His tip for losing weight: "Iwas cuts on the rice."

"Take care of your bodies. What if you have to run? How can you wear the uniform if your belly is bulging?" he added.

To be fit, Espina advised "heavyweights" to "jog every other day for 30 minutes" and "do 40 pull-ups every day."

He said that policemen should not only be proud to wear their uniforms, they should also learn to obey it correctly.

The "Type A" uniform which refers to a white shirt and blue police pants is noncompatible, Espina stressed.

"Don't let me catch you giving media interviews wearing civilian wear or the Type B (uniform) or the blue police shirt. Wear your uniform with pride," the NCRPO chief said.

According to Espina, the PNP uniform is a symbol of authority and reflects one's self-discipline.

Patrol hats or long hair are also no-nos, including "policemen with hairstyles which look like they just woke up," he said as several QCPD officers were spotted smoothing down their hair with their fingers.

But more importantly, policemen should also be disciplined and practice courtesy even when making an arrest.

"Say po. Iwarnate po nawa kayo. (We are arresting you.) Nasa po ang mga kamay [On your hands up]. If you are courteous, people will come to respect and trust you," Espina said.

NEWLY appointed National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina meets officials of the Quezon City Police District headquarters that "bad cop" cops will not be tolerated under his watch. His visit came days after his son claimed a Quezon City policeman arrested him on false charges and tried to extort money from him.

# MPD cop in torture video loses CA plea

THE COURT of Appeals has dismissed a petition of a Manila policeman who questioned a local court for proceeding with trial of an charges that he and some fellow officers tortured a cyanosuspect inside their precinct.

The alleged acts of torture were caught on video that went viral in March 2010.

In a decision dated Aug. 24, the CA's 14th division said RTC-Branch 54 Judge Ma. Guadalupe Bautista "did not commit any grave abuse of discretion" amounting to excess or lack of jurisdiction for finding probable cause to order the filing of information against him.

Police Senior Inspector Rodolfo Mayo Jr. and eight others were charged with torture and other crimes in connection with the death of Jee Ick Joo, a South Korean businessman who was arrested on suspicion of being involved in illegal drugs.

Mayo, who was then chief of the Manila Police District's Station 1 (Tondo), was dismissed from the service in 2011 after he was found guilty of grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

The CA said Mayo's claim that he was not positively identified as one of the police officers who tortured Jee was "unmeritorious" because the victim had a "good vantage point" during his ordeal.

"Jee was in the police station for a long period of time. He had the opportunity to look at the faces of his tormentors," the CA said.

The CA also said Mayo's claim that he was not positively identified as one of the police officers who tortured Jee was "unmeritorious" because the victim had a "good vantage point" during his ordeal.

"Jee was in the police station for a long period of time. He had the opportunity to look at the faces of his tormentors," the CA said.

# Another alleged victim of 'kotong' cop surfaces, files case

By Julie M. Aurelio

MANDAUE must has come forward to accuse SPO1 Jose de la Peña of extorting money from him on false charges.

The 25-year-old auto executive—who asked for anonymity due to the sensitive nature of his job with a private company—filed a robbery complaint against the policeman in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office the other day.

According to him, De la Peña accosted him and his girlfriend at making out in a car, charged them with grave scandal and ordered them to pay a fine of P10,000 each.

He said he thought he was the policeman's only victim until he heard that the son of the newly appointed National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, had also accused De la Peña of accosting him on trumped up charges and trying to extort money from him.

Based on the auto executive's sworn statement, he and his girlfriend were talking in his car which was parked outside a bar on Benny Arnaiz, Quezon City, at 9 p.m. on May 21 when a policeman in a white shirt and blue pants rammed a flashlight on them.

He said the policeman accused them of engaging in "petting and necking" and charged them with grave scandal which, the latter informed them, carried a fine of P15,000 per offender.

When the complainant protested that he did not have that kind of money on him, the policeman got into the car with them, took over the wheel and drove off as a police car followed them.

"He told me that he would bring me to the police station but we were driving around Edsa," the alleged victim told reporters in an interview.

DE LA PEÑA

As he drove, the policeman threatened to call in for more backup, a move he claimed would land the couple in even more trouble.

The complainant said he ended up giving P7,000 to the policeman from the latter let them go near the 7000-Kamuning station of the Metro Rail Transit on Edsa.

He added that the following day, he went to Camp Crame to report the incident. After he identified De la Peña as the policeman who extorted money from him the night before, he filed a complaint which was forwarded for action to the NCRPO by Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Chief Supt. Elmer Soria in Sept. 3.

In a visit to the QCPD headquarters yesterday, Espina said he was not interested in meeting De la Peña and his alleged cohort, PO2 Ricky del Rosario.

Both policemen were ordered relieved from the QCPD Mobile Patrol following the Sept. 4 alleged attempt to extort money from the NCRPO chief's son who was accused by De la Peña of engaging in phone sex while inside his parked car.

"I have 17,000 cops under me to take care of. He is not a special person ... There are other cops with issues," Espina told reporters.

The day before, De la Peña showed up in public for the first time since the charges were leveled against him and gave himself up to QCPD authorities. Del Rosario, who surfaced last week, has denied the accusation against him and said that he was first paired with De la Peña on Sept. 4. He also claimed that he did not know of his partner's activities.

Espina noted that his son's version of the events somehow jived with Del Rosario's account.

"I also had it checked and it is true that Del Rosario drove for De la Peña for the first time that night," he said.

According to Espina, the Philippine National Police has "bad eggs" of during his ca-reers.

"The police force is no place for you. We will dismiss those men one by one and cleanse the organization," he said.

Espina added: "Look at De la Peña. He is only one person but what he allegedly did affected the entire police force."

# How centuries-old UST copes

From page A-19

drew or being academic to the Tan Yan Kee Student Center," said General Student Council vice president Arjun Gonzales in an interview yesterday.

There are also two rubber boats and a military truck on standby, according to an online article in the UST publication The Varsitarian.

College deans and university officials say they given two-way radios so long lines of communication open during these calamities.

# Marker to rise in honor of 'killer highway' victims

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A MARKER in honor of the people who perished on the so-called "killer highway" and their role in spurring the Quezon City government and the University of the Philippines (UP) into making road safety a priority will soon rise the spot where multi-awarded veteran journalist Chi Rebello-Mendoza had her life.

The installation of the marker was approved in a resolution passed on third and final reading by Quezon City councilors during a regular session the other day.

It was first proposed in May a year after Mendoza died when the van she was riding in was hit by a passenger bus near the UP-Ayala Technohub on Commonwealth Avenue.

According to its proponent, Councilor Ivy Xenia Lim-Lagdameo, the marker would serve as a testament to efforts by the local government and officials at UP where Mendoza was a professor at the College of Mass Communication (CMC), to strengthen road safety in order to avoid tragic accidents.

"There is a need to honor the untimely lives which were lost along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City through a marker espousing the city's advocacy to ensure the safety of motorists and the general risk-ing public ..." a portion of the resolution read.

CHI REBELLO

Based on figures collected by the city government's Department of Public Order and Safety and the Quezon City Police District's Traffic Enforcement Unit, there were no deaths reported from the 216 vehicular mishaps which occurred on Commonwealth Avenue from January to August this year following steps taken by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the city government to make the stretch thoroughfare safe.

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS TODAY AT
GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3
& TRINOMA CINEMAS

ONE OF THE GREATEST
LOVE STORIES OF ALL TIME...

THE KING WHO GAVE UP HIS THRONE
FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVED.

# Obama expands lead but Romney not far behind

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama has a growing lead in polls and an easier path to the White House than challenger Mitt Romney, but the fundamentals are still within striking distance with eight weeks to go before the election.

Obama expanded his edge over Romney after their backto-back nominating conventions and has leads in eight of the top nine battleground states, giving him an advantage but one that can change.

While bumps in the polls after a convention often do not last, Romney is running out of chances to recast the race and win over a small group of undecided voters.

The CNN poll found only 3 percent of likely voters were still undecided or backing another candidate aside from Obama or Romney.

"Clearly heading into the final 60 days of the campaign the president has opened up an edge, and that includes in the swing states, too," said pollster Jeff Stonecash of Quinnipiac University. "But Romney just needs to move the needle a few points and the race would be right back to even."

Tracking polls by Gallup and Rasmussen gave Obama a five-point edge on Monday. A CNN/ORC poll on Monday gave Obama a six-point lead among likely voters, up from a tie before the Democratic convention.

The president's strongest advantage is his likability edge over Romney, a result of his convention's more upbeat tone and the Republican's struggles to define himself to voters.

Romney's campaign played down the significance of Obama's gains, arguing that the swing states, too," said pollster Jeff Stonecash of Quinnipiac University. "But Romney just needs to move the needle a few points and the race would be right back to even."

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## 'Likability gap'

Friday's weaker-than-expected jobs report, released the morning after Obama rondeled his convention, did not help Obama. Even reaching 50 percent in the CNN poll and in his job approval rating recorded by Gallup.

Romney has also battled a likability gap with Obama, and much of his convention was spent trying to paint a softer side of the former Massachusetts governor for voters who have not warmed to him.

But the CNN poll found the numbers of likely voters who viewed Romney favorably dropped from 50 percent before the two conventions to 48 percent. The number who viewed Obama favorably rose from 52 percent before the conventions to 57 percent.

"I think Mitt Romney's challenge is likability," reiterated Sen. John McCain told Reuters Inside in Italy.

"People are not only going to be asking themselves, 'Are you better off than you were four years ago?' but they are going to be asking another question and that is, 'Am I going to be better off four years from now?'" he said. "They have not yet been sold that Mitt Romney will make sure that happens."

Both camps plan to bombard swing states with television advertisements down the stretch. Republicans hope a sizeable cash-on-hand advantage, $60 million in August, will help them make their case against Obama's economic leadership and convince voters a change is needed. Reuters

# Docus show US hushed up Soviet massacre

WARSAW, Poland—The Associated Press (AP) has sent secret documents to the Kremlin with news of a Soviet atrocity: In 1943, they saw tons of corpses in an advanced state of decay in the Katyn forest, on the western edge of Russia, proof that the killers could not have been the Nazis who had only recently occupied the area.

The documents about the infamous massacre of Polish officers might have lessened the tragic fate that befell Poland under the Soviets, some scholars believe. Instead, it mysteriously vanished into the heart of American power. The long-held suspicion is that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt didn't want to anger Josef Stalin, an ally whom the Americans were counting on to defeat Germany and Japan during World War II.

Documents released on Monday and seen in advance by The Associated Press (AP) lend weight to the belief that suppression within the highest levels of the US government helped cover up Soviet guilt in the killing of some 22,000 Polish officers and other prisoners in the Katyn forest and other locations in 1940.

The evidence is among about 1,000 pages of newly declassified documents that the United States National Archives released and is putting online. Ohio Rep. Jimmy Kaptur, who helped lead a recent push for the release of the documents, called the effort's success on Monday a "momentous occasion" in an attempt to "make history whole."

Historians who saw the documents days before the official release describe it as important and shared some highlights with AP.

POLICEMEN carry away the last of the Occupy movement's activists underneath HSBC's Asian headquarters at the heart of Hong Kong's financial district. AFP

# HK's long-running Occupy camp cleared

HONG KONG—One of the global Occupy movement's longest-running encampments came to a chaotic end on Tuesday in Hong Kong as bailiffs cleared out antiegovernment activists and their belongings from a tent underneath HSBC's Asian headquarters.

The last of the protesters was thrown off the site in the heart of the city's financial district by late afternoon. Pushing and shoving erupted after bailiffs and bank guards arrived in the morning to clear out the activists, who had ignored a court order requiring them to leave by Aug. 27. Some were carried or dragged away and taken outside a perimeter, where they were let go.

HSBC spokesperson Gareth Downes said four bank guards suffered minor injuries in the melee.

Several protesters ripped themselves inside some of the denser tents on the site, but bailiffs cut at least one open and took the occupants away.

The bailiffs also cataloged and packed up the activists' belongings, including tables, bookcases, pet cushions and lamps.

As their possessions were cleared away, a handful of activists clung to two dirty tents but

# The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

# China sends ships to Japan-held islands

## Dispute flares up in East China Sea

BEIJING—A territorial flareup between China and Japan intensified on Tuesday as two Beijing-sent patrol ships arrived near disputed East China Sea islands in a show of anger over Tokyo's purchase of the largely barren outcroppings from their private owners.

The China Marine Surveillance has driven up a plan to safeguard China's sovereignty of the islands and the ships were sent to assert those claims, said the Chinese government's official news agency Xinhua. The maritime agency is a paramilitary force whose ships are often lightly armed.

The rocky islands, known as Senkakus to Japanese and Diaoyu to Chinese, have been the focus of recurring spats between the countries and also are claimed by Taiwan. The China-Japan dispute has been heating up in recent months, in part because the nationalist governor of Tokyo had proposed buying the islands and developing them.

Japan's second government announced its own deal this week with the Japanese family to recognize it as the owner. Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura told reporters the government budgeted 2.05 billion yen ($26 million) for the purchase "to maintain the Senkakus peacefully and stably."

Public broadcaster NHK said the government and the family signed a deal on Tuesday.

The government does not plan to develop the islands. Several reports misreported the move as an attempt to block the plan by Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara, which could have raised tensions further. Ishihara also had said he hoped to visit the islands in October.

### Difficult spot

"Ishihara put the national government in a very difficult spot. He pushed them into doing this now," said Sheila Smith, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. But she said this was a "good outcome" that should be seen as a triumph by Tokyo to subdue Ishihara.

Japan cannot afford to let the dispute hinder its visit this week to China, its top trading partner, she said.

East Asian neighbors are critical to Japan's future in a substantive way," Smith said. Tokyo needs to be able to work through "different problems with Beijing in order to make sure the economic interdependence between these two countries continues to serve both nations' needs."

Beijing, however, responded with fury, with Premier Wen Jiabao uttering tirade warning that China would never back off its claims.

China's foreign ministry said on Monday in a statement, "If Japan insists on going its own way, it will bear all the serious consequences that follow."

Japan has claimed the islands since 1895. The United States took jurisdiction after World War II but turned them over to Japan in 1971. But Beijing sees the purchase as an affront to its claims and its pace rolls for negotiations.

### 'Ups the stakes'

Carlyle Thayer, an expert on regional security at the University of New South Wales in Australia, said China's sending of the patrol boats "ups the stakes."

"It's a risky tactic response because China is extremely sensitive about sovereignty matters," he said. "What is possible are the kinds of confrontations like occurred in Scarborough Shoal (Panatag Shoal), a disputed reef where Chinese and Filipino boats faced off against each other.

"It's all posturing. It's a game of who blinks first," Thayer said.

Japan's Coast Guard said it had sent seven ships to the waters in response to the Chinese patrol boats although it contained to monitor the situation.

Beijing's anger has been accompanied by heated reporting in China's state media. The official Beijing Morning Post ran a full-page color photo of one of the islands with the headline: "The Diaoyu Islands (China's) territory. China on Tuesday also started broadcasting a daily marine weather report for the islands.

About a dozen protesters gathered outside the Japanese Embassy in Beijing chanting, "Japan, get out of China." A car driver slowly around the embassy's well-guarded gate but did not make a serious attempt to run it and was stopped by uniformed and plainclothes police. There were reports of similar other parts of China and abroad.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry also lodged a strong protest in Japan. In a statement, it called the island purchase an "extremely unfriendly move" that "not only harms the longtime cooperation between Taiwan and Japan but will also aggravate regional tensions in East Asia."

### Won't affect ties

Top Japanese government officials maintain that the flareup hasn't affected official ties with China, although Deputy Prime Minister Yasuyo Okada acknowledged that emotions on both sides were being fanned by activists.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda met only briefly with Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of this past weekend's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok, Russia, but Japanese news reports said Noda emphasized the importance of dealing with the island dispute from a broad perspective. Noda also said that "China's growth is a chance for the world and we would like to develop it in a strategic manner."

China also has announced surveillance marking one the unmanned islands that it considers its territory, apparently for the first time after closing an office for the uninhabited islands.

The coordinates are another step, along with recent announcements of Chinese intentions to use law enforcement vessels, to defend its sovereignty claims, said Shen Dingli, a China-Affiliated, northeast Asia project director for the International Crisis Group.

"It's primarily about being seen as taking action to pave the way for further actions to assert China's sovereignty," she said.

A PROTESTER shouts anti-Japanese slogans in eastern China's Shandong province during a demonstration protesting Tokyo's purchase of rocky islands in the East China Sea. The islands, known as Senkakus to Japanese and Diaoyu to Chinese, are claimed by China, Japan and Taiwan. AFP

### Future use of fishermen

In Tokyo, Ishihara renewed his calls for the islands to be developed for future use by fishermen.

"It appears that the matter is decided," he told reporters. "They say they won't do anything, but China's leaders are still criticizing the plan."

Ishihara said he was forming the 1.4 billion yen ($18 million) donated toward his purchase plan for the islands and would only release the funds to the government once it was clear whether a port or other facilities would be built. AP


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ACTRESS and UNHCR special envoy Angelina Jolie talks with Syrian refugees at the Zaatari camp on the Jordanian border. AFP/UNHCR

# Jolie hears heartbreaking tales from Syrian refugees

ZAATARI, Jordan—Her eyes welling up with tears, actress Angelina Jolie said on Tuesday she heard "horrific" and "heartbreaking" accounts from Syrian refugees who fled the civil war in their country to find shelter in a camp just across the border in Jordan.

The Hollywood star and UN refugee agency's special envoy spoke at the visited the Zaatari camp, which hosts about 30,000 Syrians displaced by the 18-month conflict that has so far claimed at least 23,000 lives, according to activists.

"I am very concerned, the world is very concerned," Jolie said during her high-profile visit aimed at focusing international attention on the plight of Syrian refugees and stressing more funding to help them. "What is very heartbreaking is when Syrian people ask you why you think no one is able to find a solution for them."

"What they described on the ground, hearing it from them is so horrific," she said, adding that the children's stories were especially moving. "When you meet so many innocent people and children, the people of Syria are asking who is on their side. Who is going to help us in the months go on?"

The actress also said some of the refugees expressed fears "there will be no more of us" left in Syria as the relentless bloodshed grinds on.

Jolie also met separately with Syrian refugee women and toured the sprawling tent city in the company of UN refugee chief Antonio Guterres and Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh.

"The solution that we are chasing has a key objective. It is to draw attention to the international community so it opens a much stronger solidarity with Syrian refugees and the host countries that have kept their borders open to all those fleeing the conflict," said Guterres.

According to Guterres, Jordan has taken in some 200,000 Syrians—the largest number in the region. The refugee chief acknowledged the sheer numbers are taking a toll on Jordan's economy and resources, stressing that the "camp needs massive international funding" and that its conditions were "still not acceptable."

The UNHCR in April pressured Jolie from serving as its goodwill ambassador in special envoy due to her exceptional work for the agency.

Jordan opened up the Zaatari facility for Syrians in July after long delaying a decision on whether to set up refugee camps, possibly to avoid angering Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's noncombatant regime by showing tacit support for the plight of civilians fleeing his military onslaught.

Jolie was also to visit Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq during the rest of her trip to the region. AP

Editor Raul G. Manuel ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

# BUSINESS

# Bangko Sentral warns speculators

## INDICATORS

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**
41.560

**STOCK MARKET**
4.76

### Shares close marginally lower

LOCAL shares pieces closed hardly changed yesterday, ending just slightly in the red for the second day in a row as late selling erased the gains in morning trade.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) shed 4.16 points or 0.06 percent to close at 5,186.05, marking the movement of other duties mainly due to the lack of trade locally.

"Investors grasped for items throughout the session, taking back early gains of as much as 15 points," said Jun Calaycay of Jovent Capital Equities Corp.

"Asian markets also traded lower as more were dragged by con-

SHARES B3

## Peso at four-year high

By Michelle V. Ramos

MACTAN, CEBU—As the peso strengthened to its highest in four years, the central bank yesterday warned against currency speculation and reminded banks about the non-eligibility of money from foreign clients in the special deposit account (SDA) facility.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it wanted banks to pass up a system that would detect sources of funds being invested in the SDA facility. Specifically, the BSP wanted banks to have a means to prove to regulators that the funds they were placing in SDAs were not money coming from their foreign clients.

Last July the BSP announced that it was prohibiting foreign funds from being invested in the central bank's SDA facility a virtually risk-free investment vehicle that earns about 4 percent interest across all maturities.

The prohibition was aimed at curbing speculative activities involving the peso-dollar exchange rate. Regulators believed that because of speculation that the peso would further appreciate over the near term,

SHARES B3

## Exports growth improves to 7.8% in July

By Ana C. Roa

PHILIPPINE exports grew at a faster pace in July after a slowdown in the previous month but shipments of electronics, the country's top export, continued to drag down the sluggish global economy.

Outbound shipments increased by 7.8 percent in July from a year earlier as huge increases in export items like metal components and activated carbon offset a sharp decline in electronics and semiconductors.

The better performance of items other than electronics might not be enough to meet the export target as the manufacturing sector also making exports less competi-

EXPORT B3/B4

## IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Man versus bird /B2
■ **Vehicle** sales grew 6% as of Aug., says Campi /B2-1
■ **Over-**subscription marks sale of 10-year bonds/B2-4

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# Man versus bird

Biz Buzz
*By the staff*

Dennis L. Datoy

**7-Eleven's new investor**

SHARES of the country's biggest convenience store operator Philippine Seven Corp. (urban) is listed under the broker SEPOY traded online (basically) on Monday as a foreign fund's trade account into the mid-chain. This is, of course, seen as another vote of confidence on the Philippine economy.

Suffice to say, the new investor is a "hedge fund" fund that manages "dry bigger endowments, among others," PSE chief executive officer Victor Pacterno says. About 41 million shares of SEVN were traded by Deutsche Bank at PSE each on Monday equivalent to nearly 12 percent of the retailer's outstanding shares. The shares crossed seven month above P2.70/share.

Pero, "that's nearly them," Pacterno says. Because that is a significant investment, it will have to be disclosed to the stock exchange soon. "We are very happy to have them on board," Pacterno says.

The local network of 7-Eleven has a store count of 546 as of end-June and employs 614 people in its stores and various support units. Gearing up for expansion amid buoyant consumer spending in the country, the retail chain has acquired under a long-term lease agreement a 1,200-square-meter warehouse space in Pasig City to boost its capacity to serve roughly 1,200 stores across the country. Doris C. Dumlao

**No backdoor listing now**

GOING public is part of the roadmap to be taken by the Pit family's Century Pacific group but the seafood canning firm is not in a big hurry to do so, according to Century Pacific founder and chair Rizalito Pe Sr. Amid speculation that CPG may enter through the backdoor, Pe said: It's not in our plan at the moment."

Last year, the Pet Century group bought about a third of boutique property developer Ayala Land Corp., led by the group of investment banker Jaime Ayala, the father of BPO chief executive Enrique Ayala. Then, when BPO disclosed that it was investing in a leading seafood exporter, Century Pacific aroused some people's mind.

"Our company has been thinking of going public but we have not thought of going through the backdoor," Mr. tells the Biz Buzz. "We may have to be listed at a certain point in time but not now." He says that Century Pacific is not the seafood company that will be listed on the PSE.

What is certain is that in the next month or two, the Century group will seal the $20-million tuna processing operations in Papua New Guinea. The firm invested in this partnership with leading global tuna supplier Thai Union and local fishing giant Frabelle to boost its private label canning business.

Apart from selling its own canned tuna brands like Century, 555, Blue Ribbon and Fiesta, CPG exports to international buyers that, in turn, market their own brands under their own brands. "We've customized everything and we'll start operations maybe next month or after next month," Pe says. Doris C. Dumlao

**Celebrating success**

FLUOR, one of the world's leading engineering and construction companies, is celebrating 25 years of construction operations in the Philippines in style. Fluor management and employees in Manila and Cebu are commemorating the important milestone with various anniversary events in both cities.

Fluor opened its first Philippine office in Manila in 1987 and today the company has more than 2,300 professional employees in the country, and there is reason to believe that even more will be employed. The Texas-based company says the Philippine office is one of the fastest growing in its network.

Established as a global execution center, the Manila office initially supported other Fluor offices in the global network, enabling the company to execute cheaper, more engineering, design and technical services 24 hours a day.

Over the years, the office has grown and expanded its capabilities and now offers a complete suite of full-service engineering, procurement, construction management and project management services. The new office support projects in locations as diverse as the Middle East, South America, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, China and the Philippines. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

*Biz Buzz also has a preview of the Philippine Stock Exchange's annual IDP (PSE EDGE) to 4467 (02/56 stars).*

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# Bangko Sentral warns

Front page B1

fund sources were selling dollars and investing in pesos to take advantage of potential earning opportunities. Some of the pesos bought by speculators were believed to be being parked as investments in the NRA facility of the central bank.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the NRA facility should not be considered as facing foreign investments, particularly those are speculative in nature. The facility was meant to siphon off excess peso liquidity to keep inflation manageable, he said.

"Banks have to put in place a system that will make sure they are able to comply with the regulation against BSP placements funded by foreign money. They must establish a system through which they can tell [the BSP] the source of the NRA funds," Tetangco told reporters at the sidelines of a financial literacy program held here and organized by the BSP and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The peso tightened strengthened to the 41-to-a-dollar territory this month, hitting a new four-year high the other day. Yesterday, the local currency closed at 41.16 to $1. Regulators attributed the appreciation of the peso to the favorable economic performance of the Philippines and the economic problems of advanced economies—both of which are driving foreign investment funds (usually the speculative "hot money") to the Philippines.

Tetangco said the BSP would exercise flexibility in intervening in the foreign exchange market, such as by buying dollars, to prevent sharp and sudden movements in the exchange rate.

Tetangco said the BSP maintained the policy of allowing the exchange rate to be generally determined by the market, but would keep the flexibility to participate in the market to avoid sharp fluctuations.

The BSP said it did not have a bias in favor of a strong or weak peso, but stressed that exports and workers (farmers) should be avoided. Economic volatility hurts businesses and the economy in general.

# Exports growth improves

Front page B1

rter, economists said.

Despite boxed up Filipino Governor Amando Tetangco Jr said the July growth of 7.6 percent could be considered "respectable" given the difficult economic environment.

"That [July exports growth] is of course a positive development. That shows that the export sector remains competitive in spite of the global difficulties that are being experienced now," Tetangco said.

The July export growth marked an improvement from the 5.5 percent in June.

According to the National Statistics Office, exports in July amounted to $4.61 billion, up from $4.96 billion in the same month last year.

Electronics exports, which accounted for about a third of exports in July, went down 10.6 percent to $1.68 billion from $2.25 billion in July 2011. Semiconductors, which made up the bulk of electronic exports, shrank 11.34 percent in July down 12.1 percent from $1.53 billion a year ago.

"The dip in electronics exports mirrors the continuing saga of economic lethargy in the European and American markets," said Gil Teves of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Economist Victor Abola of UNEP said that exports could fare better in the fourth quarter as a result of elevation spending in the United States and predictably more stimulus from the US Federal Reserve.

"Nonetheless, especially with an appreciating peso that kills the competitiveness of Philippine exports and industries, the target 10 percent for the full year is not likely to be reached," Abola said. Bobby report from Michelle Remo

# Shares close

From page B1

cerns over Europe's progress in finding both a short-term and lasting solution to the crisis.

Sectoral indices were mixed at the end of trading, with mining and oil shares gaining 2.9 percent with the government's release of the implementing rules and regulations for the administration's new mining policy.

The day's list of top gainers were dominated by Lopezes Meralco's "G" and "B" shares, which rose 10.62 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively. Also in the list of top gainers were mining firms Philex Mining Corp. (16 percent), Zeta Holdings (8.75 percent), Oriental Petroleum (5.88 percent) and Atlas Mining (4.44 percent).

The day's most active shares was market heavyweight PLDT, which rose 0.41 percent. Paolo G. Montecillo

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CENTURY

# Amid urban bustle, *a serene sanctuary*

By Charles E. Ruben

Suntrust Shanata

It can easily be said that Quezon City, the country's former capital, is one of the busiest and most upbeat cities today. It is home to top universities and colleges, the largest shopping malls and leisure establishments, and well-known industrial hubs. Quezon Avenue, in the northeast part of Quezon City, is definitely no exception as it is a major thoroughfare that connects to EDSA and to Mindanao Avenue (which now has a direct access to the North Luzon Expressway as well as the Tuba Hauth Avenue) and is surrounded by restaurants and shopping establishments.

With all these activities brewing, it may seem that there can be no space for rest and relaxation in this part of the metropolis. But through its newest premier condominium development Suntrust Shanata, Suntrust Properties, Inc., a subsidiary of property giant Megaworld Corporation, is going to make available a peaceful and convenient lifestyle way different from Quezon City's usual whirlwind mode of living.

"And as its name suggests, Shanata — which is a Sanskrit word for tranquility, peacefulness and quietness — is supposed to offer a spa resort. Since most people enter spas to find relaxation or distraction from the pressures and stresses of daily life, we decided Shanata should also provide a similar refuge for its residents," described Suntrust Properties president Atty. Hermenio M. Pallongan.

Pallongan shared that within its gates, Shanata promises to make its residents feel that they have completely left the noise and tension of the outside world, as effortlessly as shedding off their work clothes.

### Blocking out traffic noise

"Suntrust Properties promises that from the moment the residents pass through Shanata's cascading waterfalls at the entrance gate, they will feel like they have entered a different world. They will be greeted by a splendid avenue of trees shading a central promenade that cuts through the rolling slope of the land. Warmness, privacy and tranquility are ensured as the community is designed to minimize the outside urban view as well as the traffic noise. This way, homeowners can focus their attention to the lush tropical foliage and the modern Asian-inspired buildings before them," described Pallongan.

Suntrust Properties has decided to devote 30 percent of Shanata's 3.34-hectare lot area to the cultivation of trees and lush greenery. The amenities area and all twelve mid-rise clusters have also been positioned away from the main road to further lessen the impact of the noise and pollution.

Suntrust Shanata is composed of 12 clusters with Sanskrit-inspired names – Abhra (pinkish), Aman (infinite joy), Dania (calm), Dimana (daughter of the sun), Ramsha (beautiful life), Reflana (home), Lara's (ray of light), Lawak (love), Heran (quiet), Hikaya (heaven), Sabina (peace) and Serena (serenity). The project offers a total of 1,752 units.

"The advantage of having a low-density residential community like Shanata is that there will be no crowding in the amenities, along corridors and other common areas. The sense of community is cherished, as every unit faces only one another," promised Pallongan.

The cluster's one plus of varying heights ranging from six, eight, ten to twelve levels. This play of heights gives additional emphasis on the Modern Asian design of the project and lends an additional homey character. The also allows for the maximization of natural light and air circulation.

**Proud design**

Even after successfully completing numerous township subdivisions and five vertical residential communities, Pallongan is especially proud of Shanata because this would define Suntrust's image in the vertical market adopting a distinctive Modern Asian concept. He said the modern Asian touch is a perfect design idea for a project like Shanata. "Modern Asian condenses the old and the new. Remniscent of the bahay kubo, each unit offers a balcony as well as large windows that provide that roomy feeling and lots of natural light into all areas of the house. Ventilation is excellent, thanks to the modern layout. And with modern construction like concrete and steel, our residents will be assured of a home that lasts for decades," he explained.

Shanata offers studio units with a total floor area of 26.7 square meters, including a 3.3 square meter balcony. Also available are 2-bedroom units with 36 square meters floor area, and

3 bedroom units with 92 square meters. Combinations of several units may also be allowed should the buyer opt for a much bigger home space.

**First impression**

With Shanata, Suntrust Properties would like to make a great first impression. "We made sure that we will be offering better and bigger units at much more competitive packages. While comparable projects would sell theirs at around P120,000 per square meter, we are selling ours at around P60,000. Thus, a 35 sq.m studio would only cost around P1.6 million while a 35 sq.m. 2-bedroom unit would only cost around P3 million. We also have several pay-over options, the most affordable would entail either our buyer to amortize less than P5,000 a month," shared Pallongao.

Because Suntrust Shanata is geared towards providing relaxation and peace of mind to its residents, Suntrust Properties also included a meditation garden as well as a reflexology walking path (which features smooth stones, embedded in concrete with one edge sticking up or being flat.) This walking path is meant to promote health and boost one's vitality.

Aside from the clubhouses, Shanata's planners will also include a multipurpose hall equipped with gym, function rooms, and spa, a swimming pool with jacuzzi something, and pool deck.

"Shanata residents will also enjoy a standby power generator for the common and other selected areas, as well as one-head water tank and underground cistern for continuous water supply," added Pallongaon.

**Serene sanctuary**

"Shanata may seem similar to our current and already completed developments in terms of amenities and features, but what defines this community from the rest is the fact that its design is primarily geared towards providing future residents with amenities and project features that would allow them to relax, rejuvenate and re-balance their selves being from the stressful hustle and bustle of city life," promised Pallongaon.

Since its inception in 1997, Suntrust has created numerous self-sustaining residential communities in Dasmariñas, Gen. Trias, and Silang in Cavite, and in Calamba, Laguna. While the company is also slowly making a name for itself in condominium developments around Metro Manila, Pallongaon said Suntrust will go on creating unique developments similar to Shanata.

"We are no longer just developers of affordable homes. We have envisioned well-thought out designs that focus on space-saving and functionality features, and framed them into comfortable, master-planned communities. We also make sure that our clientele only find high-end standard of comfort and style," said Pallongaon.

For Pallongaon, Shanata would be a strong testament of how far Suntrust Properties has progressed in achieving its objectives. "This year will definitely be very exciting for Suntrust as we lay the groundwork for a successful, high-growth future. Homebuyers can expect Shanata's first two clusters to be turned over to the new home owners," added Pallongaon.

With this promise, future homeowners could not wait very long to experience the serene and convenient lifestyle that can only be experienced at Suntrust Shanata.

For further details or inquiries on this new premium development, interested parties may call [illegible] or visit their www.suntrust.com.ph.

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# BUSINESS

## PLDT network 'unrivaled'

### Exec cites coverage, capacity, resiliency

**By Paolo G. Montecillo**

PUBLICLY listed Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said most of its subscribers now enjoy the improved coverage, service quality and network resiliency following the early completion of the company's network modernization program this year.

In a statement issued yesterday, PLDT said the combined networks of its mobile brands Smart Communications and Sun Cellular were now unrivaled by any other telecommunications player in the country.

The company, chaired by Manuel V. Pangilinan, was lauding at least three telcos, which is under scrutiny by government regulators due to a spike in complaints regarding the reliability of its services.

"The group's investments have produced a network that is unrivaled in terms of coverage, capacity and resiliency," PLDT president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said. "What was already the most extensive and advanced network in the country has been further super-charged with our access network providing the widest coverage via the expansion of long-term evolution (LTE) sites and a transport network that rides on over 48,000 kilometers of fiber assets with an additional 8,000 kilometers of fiber-to-the-home rolled out."

This brings the PLDT group's total fiber assets to 56,000 kilometers, more than four times the 11,000 kilometers of fiber network being built by Globe.

"We are clear in covering the whole of Metro Manila with the most reliable and faster fiber connection and gaining momentum in extending the rest of the country," Nazareno said.

He added that the PLDT group, through cellular subsidiaries Smart Communications and Sun Cellular, has established an access network that is complied with 3G and LTE technologies, with 3G coverage reaching majority of the populations and LTE getting to a growing number of areas.

"No other provider comes close to the network that we have now, not just in terms of capacity but most importantly in terms of resiliency and efficiency," Nazareno said. "We are now in the best position to meet the demands of the future. We are extremely prepared for data explosion."

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) earlier this month said it had alerted Globe Telecom, owned by Ayala Corp. and the Singtel group, about a spike in complaints of dropped calls, delayed messages and non-transient browser services.

The NTC said Globe earlier admitted that the problems were caused by the company's network upgrades, but the telecommunications firm was quick to deny the claims.

Globe had said that its network problems stemmed from the congestion of its old legacy network, which is being replaced as part of the firm's $700-million modernization program that is scheduled for completion early next year.

## Anti-corruption drive in private sector gains traction

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

BY 2014, business groups and individual companies under the Integrity Initiative led by the Makati Business Club and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) may do business only with firms that follow the same unified code of conduct.

Eduardo Francisco, president of the Management Association of the Philippines and co-vice chair of the Integrity Initiative, said the goal was that eventually members would only do business with other companies that follow the unified code of conduct.

So far, about 1,200 companies have signed up under the initiative.

But there is "a long way to go" with about 700,000 companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, said Hubert D'Abreville, past president of the ECCP and co-vice chair of the Integrity Initiative.

"Clear, business is good business," D'Abreville said at a briefing announcing the upcoming Integrity Initiative Week on Sept. 17-21.

The sponsors called on companies supporting the national anti-corruption drive through the so-called Integrity Initiative to do business with fellow signatories in order to encourage more enterprises to shun bribery in any form.

D'Abreville said the aim was that by 2014, Integrity Initiative would implement a certification standard and provide compliant members with a "seal" that would give them priority in business dealings with fellow member-companies.

The standard is meant to harmonize existing ethical standards used by signatory companies. Presently, Integrity Initiative members sign the Integrity Pledge to shun bribery in any form, implement internal systems that will prevent any unethical conduct within their firms and maintain a code of conduct for employees to pursue ethical business practices.

Signatories also pledge to maintain transparent and appropriate procurement and financial reporting mechanisms as well as allow themselves to be subjected to audits if needed.

The Integrity Initiative also aims to get government agencies or entities to accept only bids coming from Integrity-certified companies. This will encourage more companies to sign the Integrity Pledge.

BUSINESS

# Vehicle sales grew 6% as of Aug., says Campi

GATHERING OF MINISTERS
Finance Ministers from member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, including Cesar V. Purisima of the Philippines (second row, fourth from right) pose for posterity during the 19th Finance Ministers Meeting in Moscow.

## Units sold hit 98,725 from 93,108 in '11

By Riza T. Olchondra

VEHICLE sales in the first eight months of the year improved on the back of an upbeat economy despite a slight decline in August created by weather disruptions, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi).

Campi data show that vehicle sales as of August increased by 6 percent to 98,725 from the 93,108 sold in the same period last year.

"The strong growth can be attributed to the influx of new model introductions for the year and the country's positive economic outlook, which has resulted in the increase in purchasing power of the Filipinos," Campi said in a report.

In terms of brand performance as of August 2012, Toyota Motor Philippines continues to lead the industry with a 30.9 percent share of the market, followed by Mitsubishi's 22.1 percent and Honda with 8.3 percent.

For the month of August alone, Campi members registered total industry sales of 11,201 units...a 1-percent drop from the 11,311 units sold in the same month last year.

Campi attributed the slight decline to the strong monsoon rains that had caused severe flooding throughout Metro Manila. The bliwas resulted in fewer working days on top of the national holidays declared during the month.

TURN TO B2-1

## PSALM places more assets on auction block

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. plans to bid out starting November this year two government-owned contracted capacities as part of its asset management strategy.

PSALM president Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. told reporters yesterday that PSALM planned to place on the auction block the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contracts of the 600-megawatt Unified Leyte geothermal facilities and the 150-MW Caliraya hydropower plant.

"We are drafting the structure that will maximize participation of various industry participants," Ledesma added.

PSALM hopes to turn over the IPPA contracts to prospective investor groups within the first quarter of 2013.

The government agency is working on dividing the contracted capacities of the Unified Leyte complex to prevent market dominance by a single firm and to make the facility financially viable.

"We are still working on [the Unified Leyte IPPA contract] but we intend to divide [the contracted capacity] into two or three contracts which, in turn, would allow more bidders to participate and allow PSALM to maximize the proceeds that may be generated from the privatization," Ledesma had said.

Given the large generating capacity of the Unified Leyte geothermal complex, PSALM said that there might not be that many companies left to take on the IPPA contract without breaching the so-called market cap on power generation in the Visayas.

Meanwhile, those who may be allowed to acquire the Unified IPPA without breaching the cap might not

PSALM B2-1

# Cobra Pinoy Heroes honored in celebration of National Heroes Day

Heroes (Kneeling) the Cobra Energy Drink Pinoy Heroes awarding ceremony held last Aug. 31 at Greenhills Plaza Mall. (From left) Jet Mendoza, Cobra Energy Drink brand manager; Rhon Pacalioranan, CNN Hero of the Year 2009 and founder of the Dynamic Teen Company; Grand Winners of the "Cobra Energy Drinks, Mga Bayaning Tunay na Lakas Pinoy," Ismael D. Bolo Jr., Mark David "Rubberman" Cuevas, and PFSgt. Rhonnie Mark "Boy Pabs", president and founder of Kuwait Kulingz; and Maj. Jerry Bonan Garcia, executive director of Hero Foundation.

Heroes were honored by heroes when Cobra Energy Drink says its thanks to those continuing campaign of awakening the patriotism, heroism and unyielding spirit of strength, perseverance and determination during the first ever Cobra Pinoy Heroes Awards held last Aug. 30 at the Greenhills Plaza Mall.

The event hosted by Cobra Energy Drink partnered close to 1,000 teams nationwide through on-ground initiatives and activations in social media.

The Cobra Team was hopeful and awed at the turnout of people from all walks of life wanting to share their experiences of victory over hardships. Many of them to those who need despite being ill-fit themselves.

Jim Cardenas, marketing manager for Cobra Energy said, "Heroes mean ang katapangang Cobra Mga Kawikang Tunay na Lakas itself personifies kahit ano pa ang Lakas ng Pilipino. The more in it, 300 stories that we gathered from this campaign is not sure, so many stories inspirational stories building up to the theme 'Pilipinas is for everyday heroes and forward-looking.'"

Jet Mendoza, Cobra brand manager, for his participant "Pilipinas is for everyday heroes" Pilipinas from Luzon to Mindanao. It was only till day that Cobra says thanks to these men and women who continue to inspire us to become better as a nation. What better time to recognize the Cobra Pinoy Heroes than now, the month when we recognize our heroes if the past."

Nine finalists graced the red carpet only three were chosen from among them to be declared as grand winners. They were Lorelei Beltran of Bicol, Dino Dalion, Quezon, Mark "Rubberman" Cuevas of Marikina, and PFSgt. Rhonnie Mark Abuda who hails from Davao.

Beltran is a former overseas Filipino worker who founded Bikol Canteen where she offers Bicol food while Cuevas, meanwhile, wanted to make assistance out of trash and discarded rubber from rubberslides in his city famous for making shoes, and Abuda who hail in troubled southwest part comes due to poverty and needs a lot assistance to send his children to school.

Aside from especially made trophies, the Cobra heroes were handed out a cash prize of P100,000 each.

The other six finalists were Pearl Lucasa Jacinto of Bataan City, a public relation who competed in the disability 5-mile skills to teach and was tackled by disadvantaged as an Olympic Youth in the Philippines; Ruth Eden Raga of Antique, a disaster activities and first aid; Outstanding Student of Antique Awardee; Sherwin Abarrilla who hails from Zamboanga City is an educator if the Philippine National Red Cross Emergency Response Team and dreams of becoming a great leader some day; Benjamin Violation of Taguig City used to be a military member and pantin Sol turned into the ground and now works as a call center agent and Saamin translator; Brad John Valeros of Compostela Valley, a volunteer contractor and security guard by day and a wedding guitarist by night; and Rodney Chel Dangla Cruz from Ilocos Norte, who serves as a medical representative but is also a volunteer firefighter/rescuer.

Keynote speaker and presenter during the awarding ceremonies was Dino Pacalioranan who made this country proud by being named CNN Hero of the Year in 2009. Co-presenters and VIP guests included Tony Wallstrom, founder of Geared Motors, and Miss Liam Yasmin Garcia, executive director of the Help Educate and Hear Orphans (Heart) Foundation where Cobra Energy Drink has committed valuable cash donations to be spread out in five years.

The event was toughened with a Parade which was packaged by scampi that is commercials with the made for work at Kalay Everyday Heroes. Workshops provided the finals singing their 15 songs on splitting the Pacers like "Bahala," "Pusong Tunawag sa Diyos," and their new single, "Pilipinas Kahit Ka Magkaiba."

# Globe moves into new field

By Paolo D. Montecillo

ONALLEE Globe Telecom is venturing into the corporate software business with the launch of a new "cloud"-based payroll system for small businesses, in line with the diversification of the company's products to help offset the decline in traditional voice revenues.

At a briefing this week, Globe unveiled its new Payroll Cloud solution, the first many business software services the company plans to offer over the next few months.

Payroll Cloud, a web browser-based payroll engine business that automates, helps small businesses that can't afford enterprise-grade solutions to efficiently manage employee salaries.

"We understand the basic issues that small businesses face. This is something all businesses do every 15 days. In some cases, every week, in some cases, every day," Globe Business head Anna Romero said.

"This is our first software-as-a-service (SaaS) product from a business process perspective. We ran this full application from end to end so we are able to give customers access to advanced applications," he said.

Globe's Payroll Cloud goes for as low as P2,400 a month for small businesses. The subscription includes a 2 megabits per second (mbps) Internet connection. Romero said the new payroll service integrates seamlessly with existing timekeeping and attendance systems that small businesses have in place.

The new service announces the preparations of a company's payroll system, making it more efficient for users. Common errors that stem from the manual computation of employees' daily attendance or absences are also eliminated.

"Business owners said their accountants locate that the payroll process has many pain points," Romero said. "Encoding and reviewing information is tedious and still prone to error.

"There are external accountancy reports to be made, for the taxes for bank debit memos and remittances for government agencies," he said.

Romero said the company would launch more business process services in the coming months, depending on the needs of the company's customers.

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ABENSON

# BSP says pawnshops help ease rural finance crunch

By Michelle V. Rivera

MANILA, (UB) – The growing presence of pawnshops and convenience stores offering bills payments, remittance, and other financial services is expected to substantially trim the number of unbanked adults in the Philippines that do not have any financial service providers (FSPs).

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projects that the number of unaccepted will reduce 100% will drop from the current 60% to just 37% over the next term.

This is because more pawnshops and key convenience stores are now offering financial services, including bills payments and remittance facilities.

Also, the decision of some mobile phone service providers to establish electronic money systems for their customers has helped ease the financial crunch in the country's side.

According to the BSP, a significant number of Filipinos living in remote areas are unable to access financial services.

And since banks normally do not operate in remote areas, the central bank said, the expansion of services of pawnshops and retail stores to include financial services, apart from "mobile phone banking," has helped address the problem of providing such services.

Currently, there are still 60% municipalities, out of the total 1,634, that do not have banks or any other form of FSP.

Still, there have been significant efforts toward achieving full "financial inclusion"—the ability of people to access financial services—in the country, the BSP said.

For example, the number of automated teller machines around the country has increased from 3,802 at the end of 2004 to 16,658 as of 1Q12.

The push toward financial inclusion is a vital step in alleviating poverty, the BSP said.

In the Philippines, nearly a third of the population is living below the poverty line, both of whom reside in rural areas where financial services are scarce if not totally absent.

"Financial inclusion, or the provision of access to financial services for all, has received growing recognition as a key ingredient for inclusive growth," the BSP said in a statement.

"Inclusive growth" is a form of economic expansion where the increase in income is accessible enough for people to get out of poverty.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the BSP are holding a three-day seminar on financial literacy in Macau as a means to promote savings and investments among residents, families of overseas Filipino workers, professionals, and people interested in becoming micro-entrepreneurs.

## 'Is it good to buy preferred stocks?'

QUESTION: My broker recently asked me if I wanted to subscribe to the preferred shares of San Miguel. I was told that the preferred shares would pay me a guaranteed return of 6 percent a year. It is my first time to invest in preferred stocks and I am a little confused on the mechanics. Can you advise me?—Elliot Sagra by email

ANSWER: Preferred stocks are similar to common stocks in the sense that they also give you partial ownership in a company, except that you enjoy certain advantages over the common stockholders when it comes to receiving dividends. When you buy preferred stocks, you are guaranteed dividends on a regular basis, say quarterly or semi-annually. If the company fails to pay dividends on time, for example, the dividends will simply accumulate and you will still receive them all once the company is ready to pay.

This differs from common stocks where the amount of dividends and frequency of payment depend largely on the company's board of directors. The company may or may not pay any dividends at all. In the event that the listed company goes bankrupt and liquidates all its assets to pay to creditors and suppliers, any excess cash will not be returned to common stockholders until all preferred shareholders are fully paid.

This sounds like a good deal, isn't it? Well, buying preferred stocks is like investing in bonds. The dividends are like the interest income you receive regularly, except that in bonds, payment of interest resumes on time is assured. Companies who borrow money by issuing bonds are obliged to pay interest regardless of their financial situation. Payment of dividends for preferred shares, although the amount is guaranteed, may be suspended if the company has cash flow problems.

Companies can also buy back preferred shares from you at the original offer price after certain number of years similar to the maturity period of bonds when you get back your principal. However, in preferred shares, there is no assurance that they will be redeemed on time. If the company is encountering financial problems, they may delay the redemption and make you wait indefinitely.

Preferred shares give companies the flexibility to delay payments of interest and principal when they experience financial distress. If these were bonds and they were unable to pay on time, they would be considered in default and they would seriously affect their credit rating. Companies who have already put in huge debt in their balance sheets normally use preferred shares to raise funds to avoid getting a credit risk downgrade.

Before you buy preferred stocks, make sure that the company is financially capable of paying its dividends on time. You can do this by reviewing its financial performance and track record of management.

Based on this, ask yourself, what is the probability that it will fulfill its promise to pay dividends consistently? Can the company generate enough cash flow to cover the projected dividends aside from the existing interest expenses that it is contractually obligated to pay?

Preferred stocks are also traded on the stock market but the price is not as volatile as that of common stocks because the valuation of preferred shares is not directly driven by earnings but rather by interest rate. Unlike in bonds, because dividends are fixed and paid at regular intervals, the market value of preferred shares is easily affected by movements in interest rates.

If the interest rate goes up, the price of preferred shares would need to fall in order to match a better yield to investors. The opposite happens, as the other hand, when interest rate goes down.

Consider the recent offering of preferred shares of San Miguel, which are offered at P75 each. Each share has a fixed rate of 6 percent, which pays P6 or P75 x 6 percent per share annually.

To value the share price of the preferred share, simply divide the P6 annual dividend by the current interest rate, say 3 percent, and this will give you a projected market value of P120. If the interest rate goes up to 7.5 percent, the projected market value of preferred shares will fall to P80. Bear in mind that we are assuming your opportunity cost to place your money elsewhere is only 3 percent.

San Miguel offers three types of preferred shares. The first will series called 2-A offers fixed rate of 7.5 percent with redemption period of five years, meaning the company has the option to buy back the shares after five years. The second subseries called 2-B has a longer redemption period of seven years but offer a higher rate of 7.625 percent and the third one at 10 years with an interest rate of 8 percent a year. Which one should you choose?

If you are risk averse and want to play safe, you can choose the shortest redemption period of five years but at a lower rate of 7.5 percent a year. Why? Five years is a foreseeable future and with the track record of the company, you can safely assume that dividends will be paid faithfully as promised. The risk of delay in cleanse in the holding period is remote. What if the economy goes into recession due to a global economic crisis in five years? Will they still offer a higher yield and at the same potential appreciation especially if interest rates continue to fall.

It will be wise to allocate a portion of your stock investments in preferred shares to balance the overall risk of your portfolio.

*(Manny Ong is registered financial planner at BPI Philippines. To learn more about investment planning and personal finance, attend the BPI program Smart 20/20 on Oct. 13 Oct. 6. For more information, log on to www.bpi.ph or email mybpi@bpi.ph.)*

## Vehicle sales grew 6%

From page B2-1

"The continued strong performance posted by the industry is a clear sign that supply is now stable and manufacturers are able to serve strong demand of the market," Group President Emmanuel Guevara said in a statement.

The automotive consumer sector during the first week of August took many sales opportunities from the economic industry, but Guevara said the group was still optimistic about reaching its market forecast of 180,000 unit sales by end of the year.

"The strong demand for the first eight months is a testament to the industry's bullish performance and positive outlook for the remainder of 2012," Guevara said.

## PSALM places more

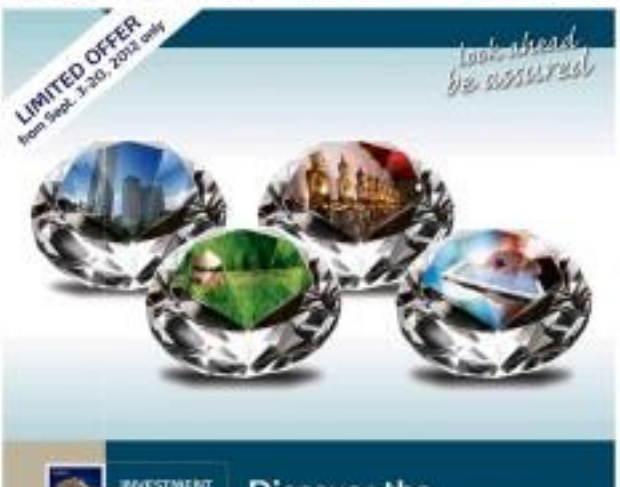
From page B2-1

have enough financial muscle.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, a company or group of related companies is barred from owning, operating or controlling more than 30 percent of the installed generating capacity of a grid or 25 percent of the country's total installed capacity.

Henceforth, the Cleanergy facility in Nueva Ecija is a combined irrigation and hydroelectric power project and is the first multi-purpose build-operate-and-transfer project in the Philippines.

However, the Department of Energy noted in a report that there was one possible major hitch in the privatization of this 1998 contract are the facility's ownership may still revert to the government through the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) instead of the BIR administration, unlike in other BIR contracts.



# BUSINESS

## Oversubscription marks sale of 10-year bonds

By Ronaud M. Domingo

### BTr says gov't now an issuer rather than borrower

THE YIELD on the 10-year treasury bond ownership eased to 4.75 percent, 12.5 basis points lower than the 4.875 percent for the most recent float of the same tenor issued last July.

Even then, yesterday's coupon was also 1.62 basis points higher than the 4.7310 percent for the corresponding close done in the secondary market.

The offer is a fresh issue and will mature on Sept. 15, 2022.

Investors tendered a total of P44,155 billion or almost five times the volume offered. The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) raised P5 billion as planned.

According to Deputy Treasurer Ed-cardo S. Mendiola, yesterday's result proves that the domestic financial market is indeed booming with liquidity.

"The volume of tenders show the market's confidence in government securities and in the country overall," Mendiola said in an interview.

He added that, given the situation, the government is now an issuer rather than just a borrower.

"What we are doing now is liability management as we are now shifting to an issuance program from a pure borrowing program," Mendiola said.

He explained that, in the past, the government issues securities "purely for financing the (budget) deficit."

He added that, nowadays, debt rates are issued more for the development of the domestic capital market, which is the government's ready source of financing.

Further, Mendiola said the Bureau of the Treasury has named the Landbank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) as lead managers for the planned issuance of retail Treasury bills (RTB).

Landbank and DBP are expected to tap other banks to help in the issue. RTB issuances, where the BTr hopes to raise up to P50 billion worth of 25-year bonds.

Also, DBP was given the mandate to lead managers of the planned bond exchange this year. The BTr expects offers for the swap of outstanding 3-, 7-, 10-, 15-, 20- and 25-year notes for fresh ones.

Mendiola said there is no schedule yet for the RTB issue and bond swap.

He added that the bond swap was meant to set benchmarks for each tenor and that, as a rule of thumb, this would be possible only with a minimum of P60 billion for each tenor.

This suggests a total swap coverage of P300 billion to P360 billion, which is about a tenth of the BTr portfolio of outstanding securities worth P3 trillion.

## Among Asean members, PH appears to fare poorly

PLDT SME Metro partners with the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) to provide solutions like PLDT MAXTech to aid in business productivity. MVPMAP is an organization of over 120 local manufacturers and automotive parts and services vendors in the country. Present in the signing (from L-R), PLDT SME Nation Accounts Vice President and Marketing Head Avid Acorin, PLDT SME Nation Vice President and Head Kar Lara- Alcibedes, MVPMAP President Ferdinand Bagsakanan and MVPMAP Vice President Rommel Juan.

By Jess G. Ruiz

THE PHILIPPINES appears to be moving at a similar pace compared with its neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) as the region nears the 2015 deadline for economic integration.

According to Ronnie Virola, former secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the country either landed at the bottom half of the 10-member Asean or found its performance slipping in most indicators.

"Statistics show that there are never bad news than good news," Virola said in a report.

There is a need to examine strategies, Virola said, so that the country can maximize the benefits coming from the integration.

"Maybe in 2015 we can look again at the statistics to see if we have become less wobbly," Virola added in a text message.

Once integrated, the Asean imports a free flow of goods, services, investments and skilled workers across the region.

Asean groups Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Myanmar and the Philippines.

After Virola stated the country improved in terms of growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and GDP per capita, debt-to-GDP ratio, poverty incidence and school literacy rate.

But statistics continued to show that the country fared poorly in terms of growth in exports and inflow of foreign direct investments.

Unemployment in the country was either the highest or second highest among Asean countries, Virola added.

"Job creation needs to be addressed. When we looked at the income and expenditures of LGUs, we pointed to the enormous savings of many of the cities, municipalities and provinces. Why couldn't we use those savings to promote employment?" he added.

Further, the report said that while the Philippines' standing as a tourist destination in Asean remained the same, it is slowly losing its edge over Cambodia and slipping further behind Vietnam.

Other Indicators where the country's performance is falling are those that touch on life expectancy and mobile cellular subscriptions.

While the Philippines was able to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio, Virola said, it was not as fast as those in the countries behind Cambodia and Island of Malaysia.

Also, despite having the second highest enrollment rate in secondary education among Asean countries, the country ranked only fourth in terms of the number of teaching staff.

"This may reflect on the quality of our secondary education, and with it, its 12 more in place, we would need even more teachers," Virola said.

## Winners of the Petron "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo

The excitement is heating up for the Petron "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo with the winners announced for the first grand drawing held on August 24, namely Albert Lim of Pasig and Raymundo De Leon of Marikina. These lucky Petron customers won a free trip for two to the Singapore Grand Prix, inclusive of round-trip air fare, 4D/3N hotel accommodations, 5-days Manila Bay Specialized race tickets, a Universal Studios day pass, travel insurance, and all F1 survival kit.

The "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo is an 8-month running from July 16 to September 15, 2012, where gassing up with Petron and paying with your MasterCard gives you the chance to win a free trip to the Formula One Grand Prix.

For the second drawing held last August 15 and 24, the prizes at stake were Petron Value Cards each loaded with P10,000 worth of fuel, and passes for the Singapore race Manila viewing party scheduled for September 23. Each party pass winner may bring along 3 guests who will also enjoy the free food and drinks.

Representatives from Petron, MasterCard, Business Mirror and GTI monitoring the electronic raffle

### The August 15 and August 24 winners of Petron Value Cards each loaded with P10,000 worth of fuel:

1. Ivan Grico - Laguna
2. Arnes Lois Alvarez - Rizal
3. Grace Marie Cen - Pasig
4. Jojo Esguerra - Q.C.
5. Isidro Alfonso - Pateros
6. Nimrod Aubrey Nono
7. Christine Llanado - Valenzuela
8. Romulo Miralla - Q.C.
9. Marcelo Sy - Cebu
10. Jennifer Tan - Q.C.
11. Agustin Castro - Pangasinan
12. Claudine Gallay - caloocan
13. Jonathan Emmanuel Ison
14. Paolo Dopilan
15. Chang Yung Lee - manila
16. Mirasol Bel Mariscal - Davao
17. David Gaylan - Iloilo
18. Joel Lacson - laguna
19. Ligo Rabaya-ayan -
20. Dennis Constantino

### Aug 15 and Aug 24 winners of the Singapore race Manila viewing party pass:

1. Rodolfo Cacho -Palawan
2. Mark Danielle Cuenca - Q.C.
3. Dando Villaflor
4. Mark Joseph Lee - Caloocan
5. Agnes Ardoza - Pampanga
6. Gilbert Yao
7. Mark Philip Ong - Manila
8. Nicolas Sytangco
9. Caroline Yu - Cebu
10. Philip So - Manila
11. Perry Yao - Pasig
12. Glenn Emmanuel Panganiban - Manila
13. Rosalinda Enrique - Mandaluyong
14. Pierette Kaw
15. Wesley Ngo - Q.C.
16. Michael Angelo Ang - Manila
17. Armando Aquino
18. Jina Lyn Abano - Laguna
19. Edwin Lim
20. Wilson King

Hand and get up at participating Petron stations. The "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo will run until September 15, with another set of minor draw and grand draw winners at top for 2 to Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. To be eligible for the promo, the MasterCard cardholders must register on the Petron Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PetronCorporation) and click on the "Grand Prix" application tab to fill in the required information. Upon registration, the cardholders will receive an automatic email reply with a randomly assigned electronic raffle number.

Every P2,000 single receipt purchase of Petron fuels, Petron lubricants, or Petron

Gasul using your MasterCard at a participating Petron station entitles the cardholder to one electronic raffle entry. If the single receipt is worth P4,000, then the customer is entitled to two electronic raffle entries. The promo is open to individuals at least 18 years old and holders of a valid Philippine passport. A participant may win only once in the promo/draw. Non-winning entries will be included in the succeeding minor and grand draws, to be held in September.

Winners will be notified via registered mail, phone, and general circulation media (newspaper and website), and contacted for confirmation with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners must present two valid IDs along with the winning credit card as well as the statement of account and registered notice from Petron.

Winners will be responsible for their travel documents and other travel-related expenses such as changes in confirmed bookings, non-physical expenses, spending money, meals, visas and travel insurances.

Petron is the largest oil refining and marketing company in the Philippines. Its oil refinery produces a full range of petroleum products to supply nearly 40% of the country's total fuel requirements. With the largest service station network in the country, Petron retails gasoline, diesel and kerosene to motorists. Petron is dedicated and passionate about its vision to be the leading provider of total customer satisfaction solutions in the energy sector and its derivative businesses.

BLAZE YOUR WAY TO THE GRAND PRIX
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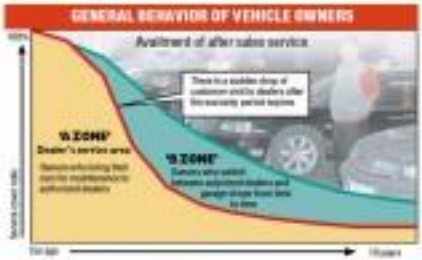
MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arruiza

AFTER WARRANTY RUNS OUT

# What drives car owners away from their dealers?




By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE IS that formal Spanish greeting that warmly says "we exist so to exist," which translates to English as "my house is your house." Filipino car owners certainly feel that way when they buy a brand new car from their friendly neighborhood dealership. They feel welcomed. And as long as the warranties are effective, the car owners regularly bring in their cars for routine checkups, top-ups, tune-ups, and repairs.

But then, after the warranties expire, say after three to five years, a strange thing happens. The visits by the car owners abruptly stop. What gives?

Admittedly, car owners have always had delicate relationships with their dealerships. It has always been one where each has had to watch their backs, the general overriding perception being that consumer protection agencies here are all bark but no bite. Consumers...and there are the car owners—end up griping about lousy service, botched repairs and procedures on their cars in online forums. Websites share such horror stories, and whether these are true or not, they sure deserve some thought and further investigation.

Case in point: Real estate developer Edwardo Sanchez, 48, has been driving for 20 years and has owned his fair share of vehicles of various brands. He had established good relationships with two dealers of Japanese brands, and by that he means that he still brings his cars to the same every after their warranties had expired. "They have given me no reason to doubt them," he stressed.

But it was not the same with a non-Japanese brand he owned recently. He said the incident involved "a very small item" that would have been taken for granted: the third brake light, which was conspicuously absent from his high-end model 2011 pickup. Sanchez explained that the third brake light should have been standard in his model.

"I thought it stupid, big deal, I'll buy one in any legitimate auto shop and get it installed in 20 minutes. Imagine my surprise, then, when I was informed by my dealer that doing so would void the three-year system warranty. So I say, you do it then. And they say, sure...they named a price four times higher than the German and Japanese aftermarket alternatives."

In the end, Sanchez never did get the third brake light installed in his pickup. What he did get from the dealership was bad vibes, and a vow to never again buy from this manufacturer.

Sanchez isn't alone; his experience is replicated up to 70 percent of the time.

Inquirer Motoring talked to car experts and found out from them that up to 70 percent of car owners didn't return their cars to the ones after the warranty ran out (In certain countries, car manufacturers estimate that only 30 percent of car buyers return to dealers for service after their warranty runs out. Auto expert Mark Eskildsen noted that poor service, high prices, and callous service people are often given as reasons for people to take their cars to other shops. And some told they were offered unnecessary repairs).

Arnel Testa, founder of Safe T Sydex Training Center and former marketing head of one of the biggest car companies in the Philippines, said that with the escalation of the cost of auto repairs and increasing availability of replacement parts from importers, "The behavior has hardly changed to this day."

The behavior Testa refers to has been formalized into a diagram (shown here) wherein majority of the car owners don't return to their cars for services after warranty runs out.

Ortiz, who used to supervise after-sales service and spare parts operation in his capacity as marketing head, said that most manufacturers nowadays offer a 100,000-km or 5-year warranty (whichever comes first), but because most owners just travel within Metro Manila everyday for an average of 20,000 km per year, the 3-year warranty lapses before owners reach the 100,000-km limit.

"From this point on, it would be a continuous downward trend until it reaches almost

WHAT DRIVES B3-1

## Chevrolet Colorado 4X4 AT LTZ Z71

# Peeling out has never been so much fun

By Butch Bantas

CHEVROLET'S newest model offering, the Colorado, is an all-new design from the ground up that is more separate from its Isuzu D-Max pickup clone. It's also more luxurious in feel, despite being built at Chevrolet's all-new ($300-million dollar Rayong Plant in Thailand. Thanks to the well-thought-out and well-designed interior for hermanos mios, you will run into no difficulties to describe the overall driving experience, using behind the 3-spoke steering wheel. And it looks mean as hell, with the bunch mix, aggressive, in-your-face Chevrolet double grill and sheer size.

You might have noticed the title, and here's why. A quick glance at the numbers shows an impressive specs-sheet: Chevrolet's all-new 2.8-liter Duramax diesel engine produces 177 kW horsepower, a monstrous 470 Newton-Meters of torque fit for a small-block V8, mated to a 6-speed automatic 6-wheel drive system with Active Select. Chevrolet speak for a sequential manual override control of the excellent and responsive 6-speeds and distinguishes the Colorado's size: 255/65R17 all-terrain tires. The engine is of course equipped with the latest in variable-geometry turbine technology and is also inter-cooled as well.

The result? Place the throttle from rest and the all-terrain tires know about four-long slideshows on both tires. Thanks to the limited-slip differential available on all three variants. I had so much fun peeling out that whenever the tranny went empty, I'd jump on, rounding out of a corner, and when the roads were dump-truck, and enjoy a bit of drifting until I get a little wary for me. Larger, faster, highway friend Otto MBAH help turns the playful rear end behind him, who? Bombs, changing tires will also limit the Colorado's off-road ability. A selectable knob that engages the transfer case to power all 4 wheels of the Colorado even at speeds of up to 100 kph sound out the drive-train specifications.

Speaking of off-road, the side-step boards, handy when climbing up the Colorado and particularly helpful for senior citizens (like me Mom who found it useful getting up), is of questionable design and clearance when doing some serious off-roading. Removing them, as well as fitting Isuzu M/T tires will no doubt significantly help business all the available torque. When it comes to Hard-wading ability, the Colorado has an impressive 800-mm fording depth before you will need an amphibious rebirth.

Our on Edsa, the Colorado's solution bed, one of the biggest, probably second only to its twin-brethren, the Ford Ranger, is bouncy and keeps speeds in check. Going past 120 kph on a bumpy road is a challenge as you find yourself continually correcting the steering to keep the Colorado going straight. Fully laden and the bed has a somewhat counter-intuitive one-ton payload capacity, but a very impressive 3.5 tons of towing capacity, beating even some of its dominant SW priced powered siblings. Kudos for a pretty recreational vehicle, towing race cars, carrying spares, motorcycles and bicycles. To put this in perspective, that's like towing two regular-sized cars, or three subcompact cars.

Inside, the Colorado-inspired interior and gauge cluster has the electric ice-blue lighting, with clearly-displays speedometer and, no-center dials. An onboard multi-function computer displays data such as average and real-time speeds, trip distance, range, external temperature and a stop-watch. Joining the in-car electronics is an excellent sound system that has MP3 connectivity via USB and aux in.

The seats are covered in luxury leathers, and the dashboard well designed, feeling very modern and refreshing. Jobs from its rivals. The seating position is excellent and, combined leg and knee drivers easy up, proximation of the Colorado's interior. The 3,096-mm wheelbase gives a very roomy backseat accommodation meaning the Colorado's not short by size. Admittedly, there are some minor disappointments and they all happen to be inside the plastics feel hard-core, brittle, hard and harsh in the touch. Fit and finish still needs a few tweaks, and the Colorados, with only 10,000 km, feels like it's pushing close to a hundred grand clicky already, so it is badly scuffed, scratched and dented. No amount of cleaning on me or my driver's part would eliminate the scratches. The handsome alloy wheels also have a very dull, four air valve stem cap that makes tapping up or adjusting tire pressure difficult as the average gas station. I swear by Schrader valve caps and had a difficult time fitting their air hoses into the spare around the air valve stems to pump up the tires.

No parking aids, parking sensors, an aural nudges, cannot be fitted. Cruising at 100-120 kph is a breeze, and going faster on smoother pavement (SLEx, SCTEx, TLEx) is easily doable. The steering has decent feel and feedback, and the brakes very strong, progressive and snappy on demand, no grabby or mushy, artificial even assisted feel here.

Despite the huge size which makes maneuvering a bit of a chore in tight parking slots, the Colorado has a surprisingly tight turning radius to the U-gion of below 6.1 meters by my estimate. Given it's size, the overall length is over 5 meters and its width is almost 2 meters at 1860 mm) that is impressive as the Colorado has more to commend with its Philippine predecessor, the Isuzu's full-size pickup from a decade past that its current Japanese-brand pickup rivals.

On the safety front, the Colorado has dual airbags and ABS-equipped brakes on all its variants. Bi-optical halogen head-lights and flashing adjustment plus fog lamps are standard on all models and an immobilizer, cruise control lock/unlock and alarm controls are both into the OEM key fob. The 76-liter capacity fuel tank gives a theoretical range of just under 950 kilometers, but on my 9-hour/first-fuel consumption. Smaller drivers can no doubt hit 1,000 clicks before refilling with premium-grade diesel.

The really good part is that all this performance, power and space comes in at a relatively good deal of P1,538,888. So options up, pick your colors and start peeling out on the road!

(T) LOOKS mean as hell, with the bunch mix, aggressive, in-your-face Chevrolet double grill and sheer size.

THE CAMARO-INSPIRED gauge cluster

THE COLORADO'S (55-kW) T all-terrain tires will always be up to the off-road challenge.

WHEN it comes to flood-wading ability, the Colorado has an impressive 800-mm fording depth.

THE COLORADO makes for a perfect recreational vehicle, towing race cars, carrying spares, motorcycles and bicycles.

# What drives car owners away from their dealers?

Turn to page B8-1

sers concept for some Isuzu customers who will bring their cars to the store). The 39 percent coverage is a very optimistic figure," quipped Isuzu.

Fernando Lee, Car Brands Group Inc. president and Top Gear Philippines columnist, said, "In the United States, the percentage (of owners maintaining their cars outside of the dealer) could be the warranty period) is much higher than in the Philippines, because 60% certification and laws in the States force manufacturers to honor warranty claims on customers maintained by certified mechanics outside the dealerships. Here, (because of the lack of such laws) I'd say maybe 70 to 80 percent stay with the dealer for the first three years, and likely that drops to 20 percent after five years."

So why do customers run to the nearest auto-care the dealer's warranty work ends? Answers ranged from overpricing of many areas of periodic maintenance procedures and parts replacements, to the quality of the workmanship/labor performed, to that general perception of owners that they feel been "shunned" by the dealership.

Data released that the main reason motrid still be the sort.

"High-quality replacement parts have found their way into the local market; some of them even genuine parts inspected by consigning motives. There is a wide perception that because of huge overhead costs (rent, labor and marketing), our charges are overly expensive. In contrast, alternative shops have improved their specialization and level of expertise. The hiring former auto technicians. Nowadays, even Shell, Caltex, Total and Petron are engaged in motorist servicing, with their gleam-looking shops and reputable names, many owners would not mind bringing their vehicles to them, at lower cost."

Davis added that "rude and cheating employees of cause worsen the problem. But they are not the main reason. Garage shops have their own share of rude and cheating workers."

Leslie Sy of Isuzu cars said he would even estimate that 75 percent would not return to the cars. Sy cited the major bottom of car dealerships concerning to this "dumping", high prices in labor and parts; mechanics with little experience diagnosing car problems, or who are more than willing to recommend expensive repairs and parts replacement but do not guarantee the problem will be fixed, and long hours to get the car serviced, even for basic periodic tune-ups.

Lee offered his own observations. Premium prices without perceived commensurate value offered. Failure of service technicians to solve vehicle problems that vehicle owners view as simple problems or should not take as long as they should. Poor quality control on work performed on vehicles. And close to unwanted time."

"I don't know about most but when I will need to go to dealerships for simple service work such as an oil change, a job that's performed in 15 minutes would take practically a whole day to get done because of long wait times," quipped Lee.

Tamayo encountered: "High prices, poor service, unwanted repairs and general dissatisfaction with difficult warranty claims. Most customers stick with the dealer only until they have a denied warranty issue."

### Lower the cost

Davis said that manufacturers must develop new and cheaper sources of spare parts locally to match the Asia/Taiwan region to lower the cost of maintenance. "The government can help by reducing the import duty of spare parts to that of CBU parts, especially the critical parts."

"Moreover, they should also develop a new network of service/parts shops, independent from the current car service dealerships, located nearer to the residential areas."

Counter-sales of selected preventive maintenance parts will also draw out-of-warranty owners back to the dealerships. But the key is to widely approach to the problem, as it may potentially encourage DIY (do-it-yourself) repairs.

He said that in order for car owners to return to their store, the latter must offer: More realistic parts prices and labor fees. Better turnaround time for simple jobs (such as periodic oil change/tune-ups); and better diagnostics, which would keep customers from paying unnecessary labor fees and unnecessary parts charges.

Lee said better quality of service would be key. "If you trust your chosen repair shop, there should be no reason for them to not come back to you, unless they messed out of the area so that it would be harder be practical to go back to you," he said.

Tamayo-Otti said an "aggressive after-service follow-up program, wherein customers receive calls to remind them of preventive maintenance schedules and to ask about service issues, help boost customer satisfaction and would otherwise jump-ship."

Asked to cite non-toxic dealerships, Tamayo-Otti said: "Not to name names, but there are those initiatives by changing for platinum spark plugs at every other oil change (number of dealership) somewhere along those frontrunner) or denying warranty work on even the most obvious warranty defects (inaction of dealership) somewhere in Bonifacio Global City).

Tamayo-Otti mentioned a dealership in Alabang where he made a series of rather tearing blunders, such as sending home car with the wrong wheels. "You'd think they would notice when a car just out of their garage with three after-market 18-inch wheels and one steel rim!" But again, the service adviser himself makes all the difference, as I often go to the same dealership and have an issue."

Davis related that when he brought his car (and of the brand that he used to manage) a couple of times to the dealership, he said "I got very disappointed at their cost and quality of service. Now, my car is serviced by my friendly neighborhood shop. But to whom will good-looking at the cars, but I get what I pay for."

So, readers, what have been your good and bad experiences with cars/dealerships? Share only if you're willing to back it up. Please email column@inquirer.com.ph

# Porsche banks on sustainability as it expands Leipzig plant

STUTTGART—The expansion of Porsche's Leipzig plant, one of the most efficient automobile factories in the world, sends out another clear message for environmental protection.

The plant's designers have taken advantage of the site for the provision of natural energy sources as well as the reduction of CO2 emissions, amount of waste and consumption of water. Its data have been successful in reducing the overall energy needs of the plant considerably. One-of-a-kind in this context is the use of a wood chip fired heating system at a German power plant, which will supply the new paint shop with heat from natural resources. Currently, the Porsche plant of Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG in Saxony is being expanded for the new Macan model range, set to roll off the assembly line starting in late 2013.

"Environmental protection is a vital element of Porsche's corporate responsibility. This applies to our production activities to close to our products. This way, we are positioned to meet our social responsibility. What's more: We're reducing costs, motivate top-tier employees and thus are making a huge contribution to corporate success," said Wolfgang Latzgus, member of the Executive Board Production and Logistics of Porsche AG.

Numerous measures for the improvement of the ecobalance are scheduled to be in place by the completion of the new factory space next year. The waste heat of the nearby wood chip-fired heating plant will be used to supply 90 percent of the heat for the new paint shop on a carbon-neutral basis. A completely innovative separator system for paint mist is being built based on an electrostatic method, helping to keep the emissions of solvents and fine dust during the painting process to a minimum. In addition, the drawn and packing lists on the new factory premises will be equipped with LED lamps. The roof of the body construction plant is prepared for a photovoltaic plant was installed by generating electric power. Singlet, reflecting roof membranes are to prevent the heating up of the halls in the summer as well.

With the expansion of its Leipzig plant, Porsche is carrying forward its sustainability strategy. With new technologies and an efficient energy management system, all customary threshold values will be unshown, new benchmarks defined and ideas implemented. This also applies to the painting concept established in Leipzig, which is one of a kind in the automotive industry. More than ten years ago, the sports car maker laid out routines for systems, wetland concepts and partners all around the factory halls in order to create natural habitats for animals and plants. In the context of the plant expansion, the spots can rather well enlarge these grazing areas, which are rare and wild horses or "Porsche spherepots of the countryside" will continue to make care of in the future.

*For information on available Porsche models in the Philippines, visit Porsche Philippines' showroom at 2/F EDSA Shangri-la Complex or contact 727-0000 to 05.*

**AUTOMOTIVE COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL DONATES TO RED CROSS**

PHILIPPINE Red Cross (PRC) chair Richard J. Gordon (fourth from right) receives a check from the Philippine Automotive Competitiveness Council (PACC) president and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. president Michitaka Sugata a check donation of P500,000 for the benefit of victims of recent floods in the country. Looking on are (from left) president of the FBC Group and PACC barrier Eddie Lim, assistant vice president of Ford Group Philippines and member of PACC Steering Committee Jose Gonzales, Carlo Calimlim and Ms. Emer Beltran of PRC, and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines (MP and member of PACC steering committee Dante Santos.

# Ford to sell Edge, EcoSport in Europe as SUV sales rise

FORD MOTOR Co. showed its revamped European lineup on recently, including a new small sport utility vehicle in challenge Nissan Motor Co.'s Juke, as the automaker pushes to revive sales and curb mounting losses in the region.

Chief executive Alan Mulally and other Ford executives previewed several models to some 2,500 dealers, including the EcoSport, a compact SUV launched early this year at the New Delhi Auto Show that will compete in one of the fast growing vehicle segments in Europe.

The showcase was designed to prove to Ford's struggling European dealers that it has attractive new vehicles in the pipeline for the next year. Ford sales have fallen faster than overall demand in Europe, where the automaker expects to lose more than $1 billion this year and is working to cut costs.

"The most important thing we can do is acknowledge the current reality and develop a plan to deal with it," Mulally said at the event held at the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam.

Through July Ford sales in Europe have slumped nearly 11 percent, while the overall market down about 7 percent but by the deepening economic crisis. In the second quarter, Ford lost $1,221 on every vehicle it shipped to dealers in Europe.

But sales of SUVs, like the Nissan Juke, have been the rare bright spot for the European car industry, executives said. Ford is expanding its SUV lineup and aims to sell 1 million SUVs in Europe over the next six years.

Ford plans to introduce the EcoSport in the next 18 months and will have a new model of its existing Kuga crossover later this year. Ford also revealed plans to sell the next generation of its medium-sized Kuga SUV in Europe.

"Over the past few years, the SUV segments are the only ones to have grown in Europe, and it's forecast to continue," Jim Farley, Ford's global marketing chief, said on Thursday.

"Small is where the real growth is happening. The small SUV segment in Europe will double in the next five years," he said, adding that sales of medium-sized SUVs may grow by a third.

In addition to the SUVs, Ford also showed the updated Fiesta small car, a European mainstay and the Transit commercial van.

Ford also plans to sell the Mustang car in Europe, Mulally said.

Dealers also saw the new flagship Mondeo, based on Ford's US Fusion sedan. The car was scheduled to be introduced in Europe in early 2013, but negative users told the launch would be pushed back at least six months so Ford could address production quality issues.

The only US automaker to escape bankruptcy in 2009, Ford recovered strongly from that crisis but has since lost some momentum, with Europe emerging as its Achilles heel.

Ford's sales have been hurt by cut-throat competition from newcomers such as Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors Co., as well as a shift in demand toward premium brands.

"We're fully aware of the profitability situation across the dealer network in Europe," said Stephen Odell, Ford's head of Europe.

Even in Germany, where the auto market has so far escaped the worst of the regional drop, Ford dealers are feeling the squeeze with profit margins close to 1 percent amid rampant discounting, said Chris Weinbrenck, head of a three-showroom dealership in Sweden.

"It's very tough," he said. "We don't know where we're going to be at the end of the year."

Bird he added that Ford's push into SUVs is a welcome response to rising German demand in the category angling out the sedan, of Kuga and sized four by-four as a "good answer to the 'Volkswagen Tiguan.'" As he economic crisis in Europe continues to drag on, Ford and other major automakers are also grappling with excess capacity.

Ford's capacity utilization rate in Europe is 83 percent, lower than the 75 percent rate experts say is required to break even, said Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jones.

AELTRIN

# Doing it sideways

## Hyundai mounts a dynamic launch for the 2013 Genesis Coupe

By Jason Berg
Photos by Alden Ily

IT'S NOT everyday that a carmaker launches its latest model not in a swanky hotel but on a hill-blood track-event. Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) did just that when launched the 2013 Genesis Coupe at Round 3 of the Lancer Drift Championship, in front of the Quezon Grandstand in Manila. Rather than present a static display, Hyundai put on a show as the new Coupes swept around the track to the 2nD Drifters under the skilled hands and feet of drivers like Jerry Lim of Jerry Corporate.

The Genesis Coupe represented the appeal of the Hyundai brand which before this car was known mainly for utilitarian cars and sedans. The coupe is a world-class sports car platform, with rear-wheel drive and a choice of sufficiently powerful engines.

The most significant upgrade to the 2013 model is the powertrain. The Four-cylinder variant gets a new 2.0-liter Theta engine equipped with a Twin-scroll turbocharger. Compared to the previous turbo, the Twin-scroll design is able to recover more energy from the engine's exhaust gases, resulting in more power. The new engine outputs 207 hp, a nearly 50-hp increase from the previous model. Interestingly, a twin-scroll design is also more efficient than a single-scroll turbo. The top Genesis Coupe still gets a 3.8-liter V6 engine good for 306 hp. Sporty drivers will choose the six-speed manual, while those opting for comfort will enjoy the new 8-speed automatic with paddle shifters. A Torsen limited-slip differential helps put the power down to the road by limiting wheelspin so, hence surfaces. Thanks to the front engine, rear-wheel drive layout, weight distribution is a near-ideal 50-50 percent ratio. Road vs. rear. Manual-transmission cars like get Brembo brakes as standard. Active hood-vents continue with its rapid-rivalled exterior subtops, including side and curtain bags.

The upgrade is complete without a hitch, and the new coupe gets a prettier face, courtesy of new headlamps integrated into a new fascia. The vents have gone a look that is more similar to Hyundai's new corporate face, as seen on the likes of the Santa and Veloster. The grille is now the standard hexagon, with two hood scoops. The headlamps main beams feature HID technology and LED strips toward the highlights lend a more modern look. The taillights also use LED lighting. 19 individually-valved are standard.

Inside, the Genesis Coupe gets a 6.5-inch display with an Infinity audio system. The Audio system has Bluetooth capability and is iPod compatible. It can also navigation or CD for those who can't part with them. A new upgraded cluster shows acceleration, torque, and oil temperature, while a trip computer provides more information. The dashboard features hand stitching to give a more upscale feel to the interior, and the new seatback armrests guide users your shoulder and perhaps your extremities, from ingestion.

The Genesis Coupes were the star of the Lancer Drift round, as a pair of yellow and blue coupes did their drift duties on the track. The Genesis Coupe showed its precious handling capabilities by allowing pinpoint maneuvers on the track, with the customary hooton speed comes along in the mix. Drift racers Alex Perez, Gio Rodriguez, and cover put the Coupes through their paces.

On hand to witness the power of the Genesis Coupe were Hari chair Edward S. Go, Hari president and CEO Ma. Fe Perez-Aguda, 2013 Miss World Philippines and Hyundai Brand Ambassador Queenierich Rehman, and Hari chairwoman Richard L. Lee.

ULAVE makes a drift donut execution very own custom-built Genesis Coupe.

PROFESSIONAL drifters Jerry Lizon (left) and Gio Rodriguez, Hari chair Edward S. Go, Hari president and CEO Ma. Fe Perez-Aguda, 2013 Miss World Philippines and Hyundai Brand Ambassador Queenierich Rehman, and Hari chairwoman Richard L. Lee

THE GENESIS Coupes were the star of the Lancer Drift round, as a pair of yellow and blue coupes did their drift duties on the track.

ULAVE all set to start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MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcaro

# Thoughts on dating a carless guy

## Why would standing on the jeepney line—in your 5-inch Blahniks—get in the way of a potentially sweet, lasting love story?

By Jeanette Igupo-Ramos

YES, I know it sounds so stone age, backdated and totally unofficial. How can you discount a chance of true love with just the issue of transportation? Why would finding a cab to your next store in a darkened part of town at 3 a.m. be such a deciding factor in your quest for "the one"? Why would standing on the jeepney line in your 5-inch Blahniks set a mere for a potentially sweet, lasting love story?

Times have changed. We women are so empowered that we can actually take our pick. Should I go for somebody I want to drive home, or do I want to be the one driven home? Yes it sounds so judgmental and superficial but there are other factors to be considered before we can write off a possible candidate if he is carless.

**Age factor.** If you have a unique tendency, owning a carless lover is forgivable. In fact, he prepared to give an extra lift, but also photo finds, clothes, etc. but if he's closing in on 30 and doesn't have wheels yet, three maybe he is either not in a hurry to secure stability or just extremely unlucky. Having a car is like the first order of business as soon as the first rule of puberty is gone; puberty in the 20s is long enough to be able to make enough money for a form of transportation if they were hard-working and smart enough.

**Drive like a girl...fabulously**

drive

There are of course exceptions to the rules, like a transient Buddhist Japanese monk or a billionaire-gone-green. Needless-riding guy just make sure your return on investment in him is worth your time and time.

**Ability to provide.** Issues under the female species to be attracted to the strongest in the pack. This is to ensure the continuation of the species. Having a car is a sign that this guy has the capability for big purchases and has an ability to provide. Isn't a viable job to pay for the monthly loan payment. Since women are so empowered that they are sometimes more successful, they might say that being reliant is just a handicap, because they have a car anyway. Some guys might feel they were the hero, for getting the girl and a car, but after out of 12 guys I asked said this is going to be the start of a lot of disputes later on, when the honeymoon stage is over and reality sets in. Women want to feel cherished and taken care of, men need to feel they can provide, so if you are going to go this route, make sure there are other ways he would subsequently be providing and that you are to no way paying in "blindaya" like to his face when you are fighting.

**Safety and Mobility.** Seven out of 10 women cited this as the reason why having an car is a "all-time" turn-off. Unlike other countries, where the public transportation is quite sophisticated, public transportation here does not encourage dressing up, which is stressful is going out. In fact, to be appropriately dressed to honor the public transport you need to be in full battle gear; not only in a jungle out there, there is a war going on as well. Yes, taking a cab is also an option, but imagine you having a dinner conversation, which means it's not love, how long will you stand out there to get one? Even "you de kwits shower" some have already become "you de MINDA in the sun" before you get into a Christmas-two-seated cab. Some parents would also feel comfortable if their daughter's boyfriend had cars as well, to more of being sure that late at night they don't need to scramble for public transport. Although there are some disadvantages to the style such as drunk driving or having their own private mind, at the end of the day parents always want a better life for their kids. And sometimes, owning an objects are the easiest representation of being able to provide security.

**Practical vs. Superficial.** All of the men agree that there is a difference between you not wanting to date a guy without a car and you dating him depends on the brand or make of his car. When you start introducing your boyfriend to your friends like, "This is Paul, he drives a Ferrari," or answers the question if he is good looking with, "He has a Bentley!," that maybe we have a bit of gold digging issues. Wanting to have a comfortable life or a better one is not a crime. We all want to be comfortable and have a good place in society, social climbers are looked down upon by people who did it successfully. Everybody had or has done a little social climbing to have a better life, to have access to more means. But others like for-owner over motivation or measuring cup for men, then be prepared to be disappointed. Like cars there is always women and men created inside the next year.

**He is not his car.** Yes and no. Could we judge Prince Charming on how bling-bling his diamond studded carriage or how handsome his horse is? Could we say James Bond is a cool spy if he's driving a minivan? Like our playmate from us, there are the first things that make an impression. A swanky BMW or Audi driving guy would probably get the most coveted glances from those long-legged, hot women, but in the long haul, might not get the everlasting love, when the woman learns that Prince Charming's diamonds are actually fakes and James Bond's "stainless Jeep" is actually made of aluminum and transform to an Aston Martin Vanquish, you wouldn't really know until you do the ride.

In the end it all boils down to what you like and what you can take, although in the service the poor man always get the rich girl after he becomes a revenge motivated, stinky rich gentlewoman and that fairy tales always had a girl marry a rich prince before ending happily ever after. Love is supposed to conquer all, including the ever increasing gas price and the lost journey home.

*For comments and suggestions, please email jne@inquirer.com.ph or like us in Facebook/cityofdrives.*

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*Based on CAMPI sales report from January-June 2013.
See figure for more information. Per DTI-ASEB Decree # 513-1 Series of 2013.

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# Finally, a cleaner Jeepney

## LPG power is poised to make the Philippine jeepney more environmentally friendly and economical to operate

Did it get traditional jeepney's iconic graphic LPG jeepney's LPG power makes the jeepney cleaner and more fuel efficient. But can operators be convinced?

By Jason K. Ang
Photos by Arnold Almacen

THE PHILIPPINE jeepney is as much the pride and the curse of Philippine roads. It stands as a source of public frustration and ingenuity that it represents the convenience of a military vehicle into a popular mode of transport. On the dark side, setting aside the nuisances to road rules of many so-called professional drivers, the jeepney is, sadly, a badly outmoded vehicle. The high ground clearance may be ideal for rough roads and flooded streets, but the steep-inducing engines and egregious diameter of the tubular-bar seats, and exposure to the heat and pollution will not have anyone taking the jeep if a suitable alternative is around. As for the pollution it gives, it is apparent from the clouds of smoke they emit, that a lot of jeeps are major violators of particulates that cause environmental damage and ill health. Smoke belching is a sure indication you of inefficient use of fuel. Any replacement for the jeepney must tackle all of these negatives if this fast-vanishing "king of the road" is to survive—and if we are to survive it.

Here and now, a company is set to improve at least one aspect of the jeepney, the most important part, its drivetrain. A company called GoLPG will be launching a program designed to offer jeepneys a cleaner, more efficient alternative powered by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or propane. The objective of the project is to promote retrofitting of jeepneys with an LPG-fed engine or, alternatively, to offer a new chassis and body fitted with the LPG engine. By using LPG engines, the jeepneys are expected to have lower smoke emissions and thus potentially be more environment- and health-friendly.

Traditionally, jeepneys have used diesel engines. This is because diesels deliver the torque necessary to propel the heavy steel-framed vehicles as well as a full load of passengers. Correspondingly, diesel fuel is cheaper than gasoline as it is used by public-utility vehicles, making the resulting cheaper choice the highest cost of the fuel itself in world markets. Shifting jeepneys from the antiquated and laundry-pail-lining diesel engines that they are currently running to potentially cleaner gasoline engines is not necessarily impossible.

THIS looks like the traditional jeepney on the outside...

TEST DRIVE

...but it's powered by a Toyota-derived engine fed by LPG.

THE LPG storage tank is located under the chassis in the truck-based model.

That is where LPG fuel comes in. As test fleet operators and owners of cars with large-displacement engine know, LPG is an alternative to diesel and gasoline, as it is a cleaner-burning than gasoline, and cheaper than diesel. Although it has a higher octane rating than most gasoline variants at 102-108 RON, LPG have lower energy density, making equivalent fuel consumption higher, offsetting this potential. It is higher cost is the cheaper cost per liter of LPG. Currently, LPG is selling for about P33.00, while diesel is retailing for about P44.00.

The GoLPG jeepneys are rude in coming in two versions. First is the model with the traditional jeepney body: square hood, upright windshield, long passenger compartment. Tucked under the left-hand passenger bench seat is a 57-liter LPG tank. The driver's compartment is also typical, except for a small LED panel that indicates the amount of LPG left in the tank.

The larger model, based on a truck chassis, has the tank installed under the body. Both models can seat up to 23 passengers. The truck-chassis model has the advantage of a shorter wheelbase and a running circle smaller than that of the RMB "Bonito." Its engine is tucked under the cab.

That engine is an inline-four DOHC 16-valve powerplant, designated 4-9B22, a derivative of Nissan's 2RZ engine. The 2RZ is a 2.4-liter engine with a 95 mm bore and 86 mm stroke. This design lends itself to good torque delivery. The gear ratios of the transmission have been selected to optimize drivability and reputedly result in smoother delivery of power compared to the traditional diesel powertrains. "think As-

GAUGES indicate fuel level.

run," to have our driver put a fixed power is 136 hp and torque 217 Nm. Previously seen in applications like the Toyota Hilux and Hiace, the engine design is silent and well and being used by various vehicle manufacturers. As used in the LPG jeepney, GoLPG has recorded fuel consumption of 7.5 km/liter, with a full load of 23 passengers in city driving.

The engine complies with Euro III emissions standard, while the 1996 engine is currently following the Euro IV standard. (A jump to Euro IV is mandated for 2016.) GoLPG recorded its LPG jeepney at 85 HC (hydrocarbons) and 0.50 CO (carbon monoxide). The Philippine emissions standard requires 800 HC and less than 1 in CO. Most jeepneys apparently fail to pass these standards and yet are plying the roads, merrily pumping the air full of sweet pollutants.

The LPG jeepney faces several challenges. First is the cost of engine and transmission, estimated at P350,000. Some economies, notably learn, can indeed cut a vehicle repayment business with mixed results. Although the individuals and companies who changed their engines over with have established and reduced operating expenses, the salaries was not as wide as expected. The "new look jeepney" hasn't seen to take on the road, the jeepney plays a more crucial role in our local transport. Despite the presence of more efficient mass transport like light-rail trains, the final 1 kilometer is usually traversed by jeepney. The key to keeping the jeepney alive—and as to breathe easier alongside them—is to modernize this vehicle, and the option of an efficient LPG chevrolet may be a way in the right direction.

AN ALTERNATIVE to the traditional jeepney body is the truck-based jeepney. It's cleaner and more maneuverable, with power steering to boot.

TUCKED under the red vinyl seat is an LPG tank.

# Wheel Gallery celebrates 10 years of innovation

WGI has always been known as a group which leads the market in terms of product innovation and design.

By Alan Up

SAN ANTONIO who owns a car on the roads of Manila and maybe even out of 10 motorists will know Concept One wheels.

From custom cars to jeepneys to exotic SUVs, one can always spot a "Concept One" sticker on the windshield or mud flap on a vehicle somewhere. Even Manila is made up of streets in no strops are selling these wheels. The car owners tend it as a badge of honor to be associated with the Concept One brand. From car shows to the street roads, from off-road tracks to race tracks, the Concept One badge remains on tribunes.

Wheel Gallery Inc. (WGI) managing partner Jimmy Limcon, the genius behind this home-grown powerhouse brand, says it's been a challenging, yet exciting decade for them. Through their first 10 years in the highly competitive and phenomenon world of consumables aftermarket parts and accessories, WGI has always been known as a group which leads the market in terms of product innovation and design. "We have always prioritized form, function and added value in as a response to a need of the local market for quality aftermarket wheels."

Wheel Gallery is the youngest but definitely not newest the Concept One wheel brand, and is an exclusive distributor of global tire brands like Nitro, Asen, Enkei and wheel and aftermarket brands like BBS, Kelleer Sports and Cashuan. It started out in 2002, when the group started to carve out a niche in the aftermarket industry.

"We carried some of the cliff designs in 17 to 20 inches at a time when 15 inches was the norm for Japanese and American sedans," Limcon said. A year later WGI introduced the "Ming Ming" look with huge 20- to 22-inch Rims, Mbs, MB Shinning chrome wheels and matching low profile tires.

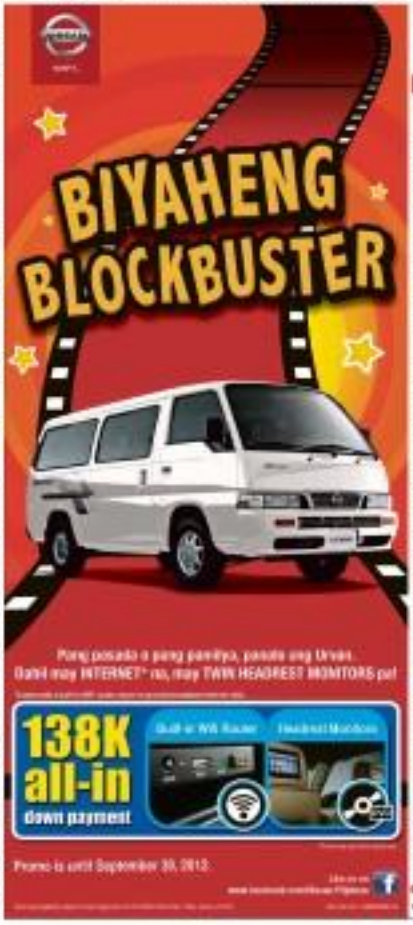
By 2004, Limcon said his partner Johnny Tan raised the ante by being the first to offer even bigger sized wheels from 22- to 26-inch chrome wheels from TSW of USA, French Black Rhino chrome and Victor equipment. This was also the year Wheel Gallery introduced familiar faces from Group Ten Entertainment. By 2006, riding on the popular Concept One fame on the automotive enthusiast market, came out with a series of radio shows with 99.5RT's Bill Mc Kitki and a segment with the motoring TV lifestyle show Auto Extreme. It was also a milestone year for WGI when it became the official BBC wheel retailer for Bee's Engineering of Japan.

In 2009, WGI was credited and named as the official host of the Philippine Touring Car (PTCC) and Philippine Production Car Championships (PPCC) with its Mito Tires. "Nitro and Starfire lived the requirements of racers in terms of performance and reliability. It was also important to us that team to have a sponsor who understands the sport," says Randy Eduque, chair of the Automobile Association of the Philippines and the authorized representative of the Federation Internationale de Automobile. A year later, Concept One, Nitro and Starfire once became the official tires and wheel equipment for the PTCC and PPCC, as Wheel Gallery launched the country's first Race of Champions. This was a race where that joined veterans of the sport against the current breed of race champions.

Another pivotal year came in 2011, when WGI introduced its European lineup by becoming the exclusive and authorized representative of BBS GERlin, Carlsson Automotive GMBH and Rohrsen Sport GMBH to service the aftermarket needs of Mercedes-Benz and BMW enthusiasts and no owners. That year, Wheel Gallery expanded and renovated its showroom to cater to another need of its customers. Now, Limcon said, WGI is offering huge discounts to as low as P5,000 for a set of 15-inch wheels and slashed prices for select brands under its lineup. This sale or the decade may end Sept. 21.

*For more information, visit Concept One Wheels on Facebook or www.conceptonewheels.com*

WGI distributes global tire brands.



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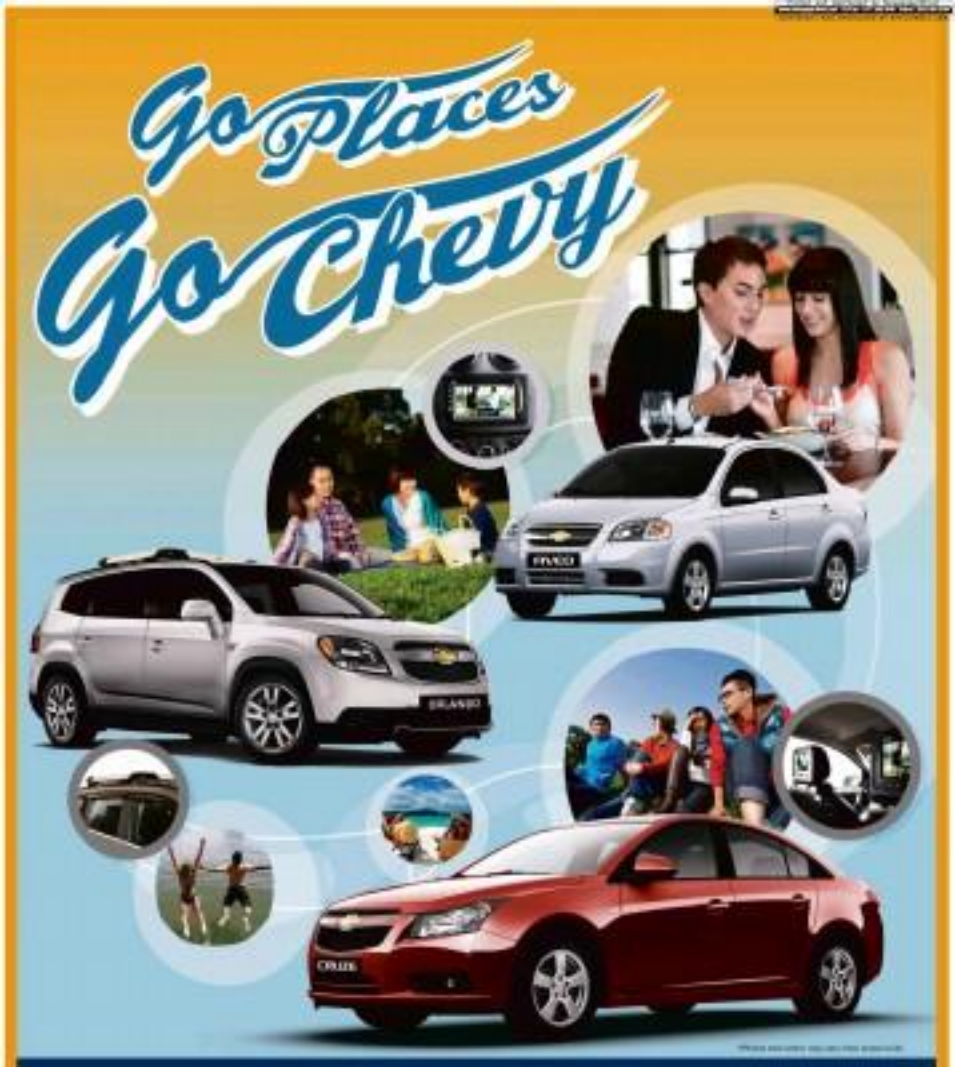
# Go Places Go Chevy

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MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcano

# Campi chief sees better times ahead for auto industry

## PDI dominates Media Awards

CAMPI president Rommel Gutierrez (fourth from left), Campi vice president Glenn Santos (fifth from left), Campi PR Committee chair Esther Dytiapquin (extreme right) and Campi secretary general Marissa Concepcion (second from right) give the awards and prizes to Inquirer/Motoring's Benchi Santos (from left), Charlie Bolton, Nina Salazar and Joey Arcano.

By Charles C. Bolton

NOW THAT months-ending in "ber" have begun, the country's car industry only needs to sell 59,062 units to tie or go toe with last year's sales performance of 165,056 units.

Base on the combined January to July figures of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors, total number of units sold now reached 130,294.

"Because of the industry's strong showing during the first seven months, Campi has in fact revised its forecast and predicts that the industry total will hit record-breaking sales of 180,000 units, up from the previous forecast of 175,000 to 180,000," announced Campi president Rommel Gutierrez during the recent 2012 Campi Motor Show Media Awards night held at Kalesaryo ng Cheverie's in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City.

The Inquirer Motoring was declared overall winner of the event after dominating several categories: Best Motor Show Coverage-Print; Best Motor Show Story (Thom Bakuzi); Best Opinion Column on the Motor Show (Benchi Santos); and Best Environment Story on the Motor Show by this writer.

Other winners were: DZRJ's Inside Motoring of Iggie Quiocoda and Wint Montoya (Best Motor Show Coverage-Broadcast); Inventiayan.com (Best Motor Show Coverage-Online); Rhodia Thiem (Best Motoring Page on the Motor Show); Steve Co of Autodeal.ph (Best Motor Show Photo); Gerald Cruz of Rmac.com (Best Front Page Story on the Motor Show); Jonathan Galicia of RoadsandWorld (Best Front Page Story on the Motor Show); Ben Arnold de Vera of Interaksyon.com (Best Business Story on the Motor Show); and Thom Tabunoc of Topgear.com.ph (Best Blog on the Motor Show).

### Full support

"Thanks to the full support of these winners as well as the rest of the local motoring media, Campi is declaring the recently held 6th Philippines International Motor Show a success, after over 50,000 visitors trooped to the five-day event staged at the World Trade Center in Pasay City last Aug. 16-19," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez, who is also Toyota Motor Philippines vice president, said the public's desire to "experience a world-class motor show that showcased the latest in automotive technology and motoring trends without having to set foot on foreign soil" strengthened Campi members' resolve to make each of the motor shows a blowout spectacle.

### More confident

"The public is also now more confident in buying new cars as evidenced by the strong sales of our members. Indeed, PIMS's recent success is a clear sign that the industry is on the road to recovery and is achieving its goals," Gutierrez said.

Campi VP and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. first vice president Isuro Isuzu agreed, informing the motoring media that automotive road maps — that would provide both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to the industry... are now being discussed with the Board of Investments.

"The country's free trade agreements relating to the automotive industry should be revised in such a way that it should be more meaningful and responsive to what the industry needs now and that includes the current Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa)," Isuzu said.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. VP for Corporate Business Affairs Nobuyoshi Ashikari added that the road map should be given priority in order to further reinforce principals cut to transfer operations elsewhere while at the same time assure that talented Filipino workers will continue to have jobs thanks to models that are locally manufactured or assembled.

Since local assemblers are active in the segment of vehicles with 3 liters and below displacements, Campi is proposing that Jpepa retain the 20 percent tariffs. A much lower tariff, Campi believes, would pose competition on the local players. The Jpepa currently provides that cars with three liters and above displacements enjoy zero tariff.

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HONDA

LOW

THE STAR of the show with the official timer marking the end of the competition

THE BEHEMOTH bar are forced to use their remaining tricks on way to the base.

THE BOLD and daring crowd the Impreza still early in the day

THE GRAND display of Subarus at the Bonifacio Global City

# Redefining the Subaru Impreza Challenge

EVERY TIME an automobile undergoes a revamp with new sheet metal and new features, it is redefined. Motor Image, the exclusive distributor of Subaru in Asia, introduced two redefinitions last Saturday: the all-new, fourth-generation Impreza and the fifth Manila leg qualifier of the Subaru Impreza Challenge, Singapore's endurance competition.

It was the first time that Motor Image launched the latest iteration of the Impreza on the same day and at the same venue as the Challenge. Holding two major events in one place experience more spaces, said Mike Lopez, the newly appointed general manager of Motor Image Philippines Inc., so instead of harassed, the venue of the Challenge in the previous two years, they chose the activity area of Bonifacio High Street in BGC (Bonifacio Global City), Taguig.

Two brand new Imprezas were pulled inside an enclosed covered section of the activity area for the Challenge. Lopez, who has been with Motor Image Philippines ever since to establish were in Manila, said that of the 330 applicants who signed up to join, 94 showed up on the day of the Challenge.

Left standing. The Subaru Impreza Challenge requires participants to place their right palm on a specific marked area of the car starting at 9:30 a.m. up to the time that only 14 are left standing, which is usually at night. The contest officially ends at 11 p.m. The top 10 qualifiers will be flown on an all-expenses paid trip (plus $500 pocket money) to Singapore, where they will compete with the qualifiers from other Asian countries in the Regional Finals. Off and get the chance to win a brand-new Impreza worth P1.158 million.

Why Singapore? Because that's where Motor Image has been headquartered since its establishment in 1986. The Motor Image Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Yin Chong International Limited, signed a contract in 2011 with Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. to produce Subaru vehicles in Malaysia for marketing and distribution in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Rims cost are right-hand drive in those Asian countries, the Subarus sold in the Philippines, where cars are left hand-drive, are imported CBU from Japan, according to Lopez. Maybe that's why Subarus cost more in the Philippines than other Japanese brands.

In the Manila leg qualifier of the Challenge, the rules and regulations of the Regional Rev Off apply. Participants cannot use sunglasses, hats, sweatbands, umbrellas or change clothes or footwear. They are given a white, collarless T-shirt numbers to wear). They can use only their right palms and are not allowed to eat, drink or use during the Challenge, although they are granted a 5-minute break every six hours during which they can use the toilet, rest, eat, drink or get a massage. Contestants who flout the rules will be disqualified after three warnings.

29 of 94. To join the Challenge, a participant must be at least 18 years old as of this. 1, a Filipino passport holder and in good health as shown by a medical certificate. When I arrived at the BGC venue of the Challenge last afternoon last Saturday, 29 of the 94 participants were still standing. There were no females left. Lopez told me that our girl fainted in the morning, when the sun was blazing hot, and was rushed to the ambulance that was parked nearby.

It dwindled for a while, then rained hard, but the contestants stubbornly hung on with their right palms placed on the cars. A second round of the Castrol Challenge was subsequently announced to narrow down the field. While each contestant kept his right palm on a specified area of the car, he had to carry in his left hand a can filled of Castrol engine oil for 10 minutes with his left arm not moving lower than a certain angle. Seven contestants flunked the test and were disqualified. The first round of the Castrol Challenge at second morning eliminated 19 contestants including all the remaining girls. Motor Image Philippine marketing executive Ann Sarmiharan told me.

Lopez said that the Challenge demands not only physical fitness, but also the mental conditioning, the will power and heart to win. He revealed that the four former guards (from the Philippine National Police, Army, Air Force and Navy) who attend mentioning at seminars beside the last Presidential Guy Aquino's coffin on funeral carriage suffered heat, water or rest during her eight-hour funeral procession, all joined the Subaru Impreza Challenge at one time. Just last.

Top 10. When Subaru's media guests and staff left the Challenge venue to have dinner at a Friday's under within walking distance, 11 contestants were still standing. Finally before 7 p.m., after having lasted 7 p.m., after having lasted nine hours and 14 minutes, the Top 10 were announced. The independent of six of the 11 qualifiers drama home the adage that "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Jason Blading finally made the Top 10 after four attempts, Julius Mark Bautista after three attempts. Two... Emilio Binding and Alex Nebblacio—joined the Challenge four times and also were four times for Robert Ocampo, it was the second win and the second time to compete. This was Edgardo Marcos' fourth try and second time to make the Top 10. The other winners were Filmark Bautista, Lemuel Perez, Marcelo Soriano Jr. and Philip Palencia.

On the other hand, it isn't true that the younger you are, the better your chances of winning. Last year, the Regional Race-Off winner who outlasted 299 other challengers by standing with his right palm on an Impreza for 75 hours and 36 minutes was 41-year-old Chiong Hai Chi of Singapore. This year, will a "try, try again" Filipino bring home the Subaru Impreza Challenge's grand prize? Watch out for it.

SURVIVING a grueling 9½-hour plus race, the top 11 contestants are still good for a wacky dose.

HANDS and legs numb and you still have an extra weight to carry.

WITH one hand up and a palm on the car, it is hard not getting tired.

MOTOR IMAGE Philippines general manager Mike Lopez with the qualifiers (from left) Jason Blading, Danilo Binding, Robert Ocampo, Filmark Bautista, Lemuel Perez, Marcelo Soriano Jr., Edgardo Marcos, Alex Nebblacio, Philip Palencia and Julius Mark Bautista.

# Don't look at the tree, look at the Forester

By Boochi Santos

TEST DRIVE

DEPTH In age, the Forester still rules in its segment if all-out performance is what you're looking for.

DGT on the open, you'll forget you're in an SUV, and immediately think you've climbed aboard a rally car or cabin.

WE ALL have our favorites, and being a car guy I am most definitely well-grounded in my own favorites. As an example, the Lamborghini Aventador LP700 is my favorite supercar because it is so easy to drive stupid fast AND silly slow. A Honda 600 GT/RA 4.0 is my favorite track-biased sports car because it feels wired into both your brain and spinal cord. The Honda Jazz 1.3 S is my favorite small compact car because it drives so well, yet is so fuel efficient and swallows a lot of people AND cargo. Toyota Supra is, in my mind, the best tuner car there is because the possibilities are endless, bound only by my lack of budget and source of rare fuel (CLS anyone?). Jim SUVs, the Toyota Land Cruiser 100/200, with its D-IS D4-D turbo turbo V8 diesel is tough to beat, and for more affordable variety, the Mitsubishi Montero Sport is fantastic value for money. And so it is with my compact crossover 'ute, the Subaru Forester XT 2.5 Turbo is unbeatable.

It's old, indeed, the third-generation SG Forester is due for a replacement sometime soon next year, with the all-new fourth-gen Forester is rumored to have an all-new platform not derived from the Impreza and will grow bigger still in the all-new, and smaller XV will fill a niche below the Forester.

But despite its age, the Forester still rules in its segment if all-out performance is what you're looking for. The EJ25D engine's 4-cam 16-valve engine produces 226.4S horsepower and 320 Newton-Meters of torque, offering almost instant response and makes quick mincemeat of the 60 liters of (politically 100 Octane fuel. Drive like a lunatic and you'll have difficulty breaking 3 km/liter. Drive more sedately and you'll be in the 7-7.5 km/liter range. The power gets sent through a symmetrical all-wheel drive transmission with a 4-speed E-AT automatic. With more than 11 million boxer engines produced, Subaru knows its stuff, and in the Forester's case, a very low center of gravity, some of the most-heavy fuel of many other modern cars which have fluid-limited directional changes.

Perhaps if Subaru could introduce an all-new dashboard, change the seats, adjust the steering column further and higher up the touch and take adjustments isn't as good or enough compared to newer cars), plus install the 5-speed 6-S4S automatic transmission equipped on the Legacy GT sedan and estate and 6-cog STI sedans, with paddle-shifters thrown in for good measure, the current Forester will be good for another 2-4 years of use.

The active torque split-center differential not only ensures even more turn-bound traction, it also helps quell understeer or oversteer for more stability on low surface values at speed, or on high-speed, high-grip surfaces such as the race track. The Starphenian struts front and is typical of most cars nowadays, but the multi-link rear ensures enhanced stability over the rough stuff and improves compliance when cornering hard over bumpy surfaces. The dampers could do with some firming up as the firm springs tend to make the rear bouncy when unladen.

I filled my test unit Forester with loads upon loads of personal effects as I started the process of moving out of my folks' house and into my new one. The Forester swallowed all my books, toys, memorabilia and various home-related stuff (pots, pans, plates, cleaning stuff, some clothes) with ease. The maximum tall-ride height wasn't a burden to use, but I suspect slightly shorter people might find loading up the Forester difficult as the tail end isn't as low as other models.

On the road, the Subaru tends to let it down quite a bit as the all-season 225/55R17 A/T Yokohama Geolandar G91 used to support a good bit on highway speeds, changing in highway-based tires will sharpen up feel and confidence but many argue you diminish the Forester's abilities in doing so. I think you need to understand the compromise you're making exactly. Others have swapped out the 17-inch wheels for 18- and even 19-inch wheels and shortened the Forester lower to the ground. Maybe the wheels were a good idea, but shortening it down low is kind of, well, weird since it is an SUV after all.

On the safety front, the Forester comes with ABS-EBD equipped brakes. And in conjunction with the VDC or Vehicle Dynamics Control System, it makes the car safer as it changes down on each wheel independently to eliminate under or oversteer, while the engine torque sensing control differential apportions power appropriately front to back, and the engine's drive-by-wire system gradually cuts power to zero in the fun and snow life and limb in the process. Air airbags come as standard should you lose it completely and the drivetrain is designed to breakaway down and underneath the front passengers in the event of a crash.

It's not all about driving, as the in-car entertainment system, though devoid of luxury rearview camera or GPS-NAV-MAP will please very good music and played my MP3 tracks quite well. It was a pleasurable 8 a.m. drive on a busy Saturday morning going to Makati as grid-locked Edsa and the Forester's supportive leather seats, cool A/C, and clean tones was very relaxing for my sleepy body. Get on the open, you'll forget you're in an SUV, and immediately think you've climbed aboard a rally car or cabin.

The Forester essentially is based on the previous generation Impreza WRX and STI chassis. It runs out of puff in the 2nd and 3rd, the mid-range scaling is impressive, the seats and grips molding a soft but very distinct boxer engine bubble.

It's old, but it's still very good, very capable, very practical and very exciting to drive the Forester. It's on the style front that rivals have been catching up with. Motor Image's best-selling vehicle to date! Hopefully the next generation model will have a closed engine, that will see sales skyrocket even further.

# Keep the other motorists in mind before driving your car out

WEEK AFTER week, month after month, I've been writing about car care maintenance tips, and or some point it does become repetitive. Why is this?

Too many people take their cars for granted. Ask the average motorist and he probably doesn't realize the importance of strictly following the manufacturer's preventive maintenance schedule...which is, to us, the bare minimum motorists have to follow, much like we're all supposed to go to church at least once a week.

Beyond that, many people don't realize how dangerous a car can be on the road when it's in the wrong hands, or when any or all of its components fail at any given time, causing havoc, endangering life and limb of not only your self, the driver, but other motorists and pedestrians as well.

Cars are, for many people, the second biggest purchase they will ever make in their lifetime, after their homes. Unfortunately, a car needs far more care than a typical home, and to a greater amount of danger when left unattended.

Unfortunately, it's not just clueless motorists who are guilty of neglecting their cars. I've seen ever-modified, ever-tricked-out cars, both high-end and low-cost alike, that have suffered numerous problems and calamities simply because the owners never bothered to look into the basics and simply thought that their latest high-end, high-performance aftermarket parts will overcome and overpower their real body problems. Some of the common problems include overheating due to insufficient cooling, leaking fuel and oil lines, newly lowered cars hitting their chassis and body scrape the ground and their oversized wheels and tires, or lousy electronic installation of accessories.

A car that isn't running properly will stop functioning. You can only hope and pray that when it does, you don't lose control and cause an accident. At best, it will stall while you are driving slow. But there're also the more problematic ones that will inconvenience other people; people who are busy living their own lives.

I sincerely believe that it a bad thing, a sin if you will, because although you never intended to or the very least disturb them by neglecting your car's basic maintenance schedule, short-cutting necessary repairs or investing or skimping on quality parts by buying the cheapest we-know-brand parts, your car was again rendered inoperable and taking up a lane in a busy thoroughfare, causing traffic.

Owning a car is everyone's right. Owning a car is freedom, to go wherever you want, whenever you want. Freedom however, is not just a right, but a responsibility, just as owning your car is. It is your responsibility to have it maintained to at least the barest minimum, ensuring that everything is working properly efficiently as well as safely. And also remember that a poorly running engine is ineffective, which leaves more fuel than necessary, and adds to greenhouse gasses which ruin our atmosphere.

I've had my fair share of breakdowns (six times in 2009 alone!), and I have a few. Because I am stuck in the middle of nowhere and looking like an idiot with a flashy-looking car that isn't working. It's a project car so it will have problems. What I hate is causing inconveniences for other people. So before you drive your car or buy another secondhand car you will make sure a project car or one as a spare for wide cooling, plenty of fuel, starts every time it's thoroughly repair and replace what's needed and ensure, to the best of your knowledge, awareness and capabilities, that it is in good, safe and in running order. Finally, a good mechanic you trust is a big help, be it a dealership, or an independent repair shop that specializes in your car, as I have.

If you can't ensure all of what I've said above, avoid driving it on very busy thoroughfares during the work week. Or if you can't help it, have a tow truck company on speed dial.


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## *Singapore GP tickets at stake in Tattoo Black post-paid promo*

By Charlie E. Baker

WANT TO watch the Formula 1 night race in Singapore? Then head to the tattoo.globe.com.ph/promo/tattoo-black-singapore-race promo portal and register now! Interest to avail any of the Tattoo Black's post-paid plans.

Application forms received until noon of Sept. 14 will be assigned a unique code, which will be raffled off electronically at 1 pm of the same day.

The winner will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip for two (airfare, hotel accommodations and F1 ticket) to the 2012 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix happening from Sept. 21-23.

The 2012 SingTel Singapore GP is Formula 1 racing's only night race, staged on an winding 5.073-kilometer street track in the heart of the city. The track snakes one of two bridges across the harbor, the historic Boiling Dock.

### Not just speed

"With a Tattoo Black Postpaid Plan, you get not just speed but unparalleled customer service. This all-expenses-paid trip to the Singapore Race is just one of the many perks to being a part of the Tattoo Black circle," said Dong Bonquille, head of Globe's Tattoo Nomadic Broadband Business.

Tattoo Black, the premium mobile broadband pitch that runs on fourth generation Long Term Evolution (4G LTE), a network platform that provides superior data speeds for a new range of mobile phones and gadgets.

Globe Telecom will inform the winner through registered mail, Facebook notification, e-mail and via cellphone call and text. The winner should confirm reception of their prize within 24 hours from receipt of the registered mail.

Otherwise, the prize will be given to the next drawn winner if the original winner will not confirm in 24 hours. Globe Telecom will call the winner directly before the 24-hour period to serve to get final confirmation on redemption of the prize.

### Two plans

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Apart from the form where personal information should be completed, interested individual may only register once for the biggest Grand Race raffle promo. Entries will be tuff to electronically through the True Random Number Generator program (www.random.org).

The draw date will be at the Consumer Broadband Group office at the third floor of Globe Telecom Plaza 2 building (Pioneer corner Madison street) in Mandaluyong City.

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Like Thelma Sioson San Juan

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# Why it's easy to raise a brat

## It happens little by little, as parents and caregivers spoil their wards in a number of ways

*Audrey Tan Zubiri*

MAMA DIARIES

THERE IS nothing like a screaming, writhing child in a store to grab the attention of every parent-by. Sometimes, the reason for the crying could be valid, like a head bonked against a corner. However, there are times when it is what it is: A child who has been given too much, without limits and boundaries. The dreaded species is born—spoiledus brattedlius.

We strive to make our children grow up like the little angels we feel they are, but sometimes we end up with holy terrors instead. Every parent wants to give her/his child the best, but how do you draw the line between giving them the best and giving them too much?

Enough if any voice or complete surprise to parents when their children turn from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde, the transformation doesn't happen overnight. It happens little by little, as parents and the rest spoil their wards in a number of ways.

It's not hard to create a brattinella. It's actually pretty easy, and it starts with...

**1. Inconsistency.**—We have a lot of rules on paper by kids and sometimes, we actually get to enforce them successfully. But there are times when it is just easier to say "yes," to the mistaken belief that one time won't hurt. But according to Betty Brown Bonin, a child-development specialist, "one careless 'yes' feeds a child through a thousand 'nos.'"

That one time you say yes is a new key, in an attempt to quell your child's tantrum, will embolden your child to ask for the same thing over and over again.

This also applies to parents who are not on the same page. Mom spends the whole week putting her foot down and saying "no," but if dad comes home and says, "yes," to a humdrum or everything, lessons of the past week could all just go down the drain.

**Making up for absence and guilt**

2. Overindulgence—Even in the number of times I hear this complaint, we G

# What I didn't do last summer

Compiled by Elizabeth Lalonga
Local Voices

'I lazed around doing nothing because I like this two-month break from school. Who wouldn't?'

SUMMERTIME AND long breaks within the school year, including days when classes are suspended due to bad weather, are laden with plans on how best to spend one's time.

When one is young, time seems so much on and on so that the best-laid plans that get roused aren't dark on too heavily. They can be dusted off and hopefully carried out next season.

These experiences of some high school students of the Community of Learners bolster the truth in poet Elizabeth Bishop's lines in 'One Art': "The art of losing isn't hard to master;/ so many things seem filled with the intent/ to be lost that their loss is no disaster."

### Marauders and sandboxes

This summer, I didn't get to build a rocket or fight a mummy or climb the Eiffel Tower. Nor did I discover something that doesn't exist or give a monkey a shower. I didn't play with mutated worms, create sandwich or torture Frankenstein's brain. I didn't find a double-bed, paint an entire continent or drive my car into Mexico.

I didn't get to cross a rainbow nor did I dig down a mountain of bacon. I didn't devise a system for remembering anything nor did I nonchalantly a group of schmuckies. I didn't get in cool situations, become a secret agent or contacted a portal to Mars. I didn't build a roller coaster, an entire a hotel, nor did I veer away accompanying myself on the guitar.

Seriously, I wanted to go to a dance, but I couldn't because I didn't have anything to wear. I wanted to go to Lady Gaga's concert, but it was sold out. One more important thing I wanted to do was shop for clothes in a mall. Believe me, I don't have much of a wardrobe.

I went to a convention and saw a number of cosplay equipment: costumes, wigs, clothes. I didn't buy any because I couldn't find a good excuse to buy those. But now that the opportunity is gone, I want to buy one more item ever!—Ronald Robin-de-Guzman

JUSMALL Robin-de-Guzman

### Couch potato for two months

I planned to go abroad, but I just stayed home, watched TV, ate chips, grew a moustache and a goatee. I planned to join a workshop, but I was too lazy to get out of the house, avoid, walk, even find the TV remote.

I planned to go to the beach but realized that after the fun, I'll go back to being wallet. I know, call me a lazy bum or couch potato, but it was fun living like that for two months.—Jonathon Cayagan

JONATHON Cayagan

### A well-earned break

What I didn't do was take a break from my summer job. Every day I took shots to do listings of scoops. The agreement was I would have one break per week, but I didn't get any.

I did go to an art class, but I would have wanted time for myself to do sketches and stuff.

I didn't get to read my 'Hardy Boys' book. That was because I was too tired. I would have wanted to have friends and classmates in the house, but they were too busy.—Mark Lee

MARK Lee

ISABEL Arabam

### The villain is laziness

I planned to watch the old movies we had at home, but ended up watched "Home with the Wind," "Dutch in the Forest" and a couple of others. I watched only five when I planned to watch the whole shelf. I watched "Back to the Future" more times than I could count or until I memorized most of the dialogue, so I didn't completely lied there.

I planned to go out for a swim or just go out of town. This plan was a complete, utter fail.

I planned to read books, but I spent most of the summer. I didn't read. I'm worried that my brain has gone numb because of the lack of knowledge absorbed.

My brain was saved when I had some French lessons, something I didn't plan. At least there's a positive thing.

I planned on walking my dog more often, but my dog woke up at 4 a.m. in the summer. I woke up at 9 or 10 a.m. That small detail I'm rapidly missed.

It was laziness that stopped me from doing things I planned.— Isabel Arabam

### I wanted to do this but didn't:

I was supposed to go to my cousin's wedding, but it was postponed. I was supposed to go to the beach, but it fell on the same date as the wedding, so we didn't go. Then the wedding got cancelled, and we didn't have time to prepare for the beach.

I intended to attend all my piano lessons. That didn't happen. There was one thing I intended to do that I didn't. It's small and unimportant. I had two months to do it, yet I didn't. I was going to write a letter to a cartoon diverse or writer. I thought that if they used my ideas, the show would be great. But I had no money for the envelope and stamps. My friends didn't know about this. Since it doesn't matter.—Elijah Mavenzie

ELIJAH Mavenzie

### I wish I had done these

+ Go to Enchanted Kingdom with friends. Further of us planned that for a whole year, but it still hasn't happened.

+ Learn ukulele, but I'm not confident enough.

JOHN Bernas

+ Finish reading all the books I bought from the Booksale library the ship Legos Ships. I have eight books of at least 300 pages each. I mean, of to finish reading all of these before classes resumed. But I haven't started on any except "Jaws Rising." I started reading it on April 23, but I haven't even finished half of it yet.

+ Have a party with some friends to celebrate my 15th birthday. That didn't happen. They were out of town, out of the country or they found my house too far from theirs.

+ See my friend Lea at the new Glorietta City mall. It rained hard on me weren't able to meet.

+ Swim in a pool with my cousins in Subic or Olongapo. My cousins confirmed to go to a mall so we weren't able to swim at all.—Jhon Bernas

KIMBERLY Yu

### Cleaning up

I intended to clean the files in my e-mail. Up to this day I haven't done it. Math might be hard to keep up easily in the morning. I tell myself I will do it the next day. But each day I am busy with something else. On days when I'm not busy, I think of just doing it some other time.

Another thing that took my time was music recalling me to something that I'm not good at. I didn't mind since I thought that I was doing something. There was a time I started to clean my e-mail when cousins from the States arrived, and being with them ate up my time again.

Every time I plan to clean my laptop, I find myself doing one of other things. I wonder when it'll finally be clean.—Kimberly Yu


JONATHON Cayagan

SYDNEY Aldo

### Stuck in a rut

I wanted to learn how to play the keyboard. I looked up a couple of songs in the internet that I could play and thought, "Hey, this is totally easy!" I ate and played the songs I searched for. Then one day, my friend urged me to get piano lessons from my dad, but I said no.

Since Mom is visiting mom-to, we didn't go anywhere. I would be pretty darn neat to go to the US, I swear, one day I'm going there for a vacation.

I wasn't productive this summer. I hated myself during nothing because I like this two-month break from school. Who wouldn't? When school started, I felt guilty for doing nothing while my friends did something awesome.

The final thing I didn't do was change. It haunts of people. I know have changed, even a little bit, but I, Sydney, have not changed at all. I can tell because I do the same things every day: wake up, eat, go to school, go home, sleep, then repeat this cycle. About 200 times.

I'm stuck in a rut which I'd like to get out of. Perhaps that's why I try to enjoy my life on the fullest because, you know what they say, you only live once.—Sydney Aldo

MIGUEL Jalandoni

### The good stuff

I learned to write my memorable experiences in a journal. It's always good to read the stuff that happened, like the fun one I joined in Laguna, and reminder those special moments. Sometimes I force myself to lift weights to burn the impurities from my body and make it fit. The only problem is after weight lifting, I get really hungry.—Miguel Jalandoni

DENISE Morales

### Canceled plans

Everyone plans their vacation early and tries to make the best of it. I promised myself I'd write a novel, but I learned that up. I planned to go to a beach, but I'm afraid to go because I'm afraid to make some parents happy, but I guess that will have to wait for next summer.

I planned to bring my mom to Palawan, but our budget was tight. Maybe next year. Sorry, Mom, she doesn't like to swim. She enjoys scenery and watching kids like me swim with the sand. I guess some plans are just meant to be canceled.—Denise Morales

# Why it's easy to raise a brat

From page F1

this seems to be a popular problem among mothers, especially those with hardworking husbands who try to make up for their absence and assuage their guilt with gifts and an overindulgent attitude.

Parents usually mean well when they take the kids out for a treat. But one must keep in mind that emotional bonding shouldn't be bought in the toy store.

By now many parents must've given their children all the things that they themselves did not have as children. Instead of focusing on giving what you did not have, focus on letting children enjoy the simple things you enjoyed as a child.

5. Creating false security — Gift a recent conversation I had with a my friend, Rio Marking she praised her sister in law for insisting loved branded children. She said one thing which struck me: "NOT creating false needs."

How true! Too many times, it is us parents who create or give the child the idea that he "needs" a new toy or the latest gadget, just because his cousins/friends have it.

6. Lack of appreciation due to lack of merit — Dr. Jim Taylor, a clinical assistance professor of psychology says that he has worked with numerous families whose children are given the best of everything yet they turn out to be good and responsible adults, but spoiled and irresponsible.

What makes the difference is attitude. The first type of children is raised to be grateful for everything. It has received, the second type feels a sense of entitlement.

A child, who is made to work for his rewards, will more likely appreciate the reward than one who is given everything for no reason at all.

There are also families who believe that "excellence should be a reward in itself" and therefore, opt not to "reward" accomplishments. Some parents feel that constantly rewarding children for "accomplishments"—supposedly a given—is a bad habit.

It's not my place to say which method is right or wrong, but as with anything in life, perhaps balance is the key; know when and how to reward, as well as when a simple pat on the back will suffice.

### Importance and attention

5. Making children the center of the universe—Nowadays, children are given a lot more importance and attention than ever; just look at the plethora of products, services and entertaining marketed today!

Let me quote the popular saying: "The easiest way to make life hard for your child is to make it too easy for him."

I wish I knew who the original author of that was; that saying is a real wonderful.

There is only so much we can do, and should do, for the kids. Too much will rob them of the opportunity to grow and learn from experiences which they need to become productive members of society.

Making everything revolve around their feelings and desires would make them unable later to learn to work well with others, and to be responsible citizens. Being compassionate and able to relate to others is the cornerstone of a healthy relationship.

6. Rewarding/praising/entitlement by giving in—Nobody enjoys a temper tantrum. Not the audience, not the parents. I don't know about the kids, but if their tears are a gauge, they're probably unhappy, too.

When you give in to a kid's tantrum, it is as if their screams and wails are being rewarded. And while your kid may not have enjoyed putting on that show just to get what he/she wants, knowing it works will certainly set stop him/her from pulling it off the next time your kid wants something.

7. Having low expectations—Another quote I often hear—"Low expectations lead to low results."

It's easy to attribute children's negative behavior to their age or to a phase. But what if the time comes when age could no longer be used as an excuse?

The earlier we come to terms with the reality of our children's behavior, the earlier we can start teaching them what is acceptable behavior and what is not.

Set the bar a little higher each time and before you know it, your children may even surprise you by behaving beyond your expectations.

8. Learning to say "yes"—This of books are there teachers parents how to say "No."

Given how many times we should say "No," remembering to say "Yes" almost feels like a different memory. For children have feelings, too, and sometimes they need a little space to be able to do what they want so that they don't end up rebelling against the rules, and to help get them through the other "no's."

A little "yes" once in a while, within reason, at the right time, can go a long way.

# How to introduce Robredo, the public servant, to your kids

By Mimi Sta. Romana Cruz
Contributor

This illustrated biography, part of the 'Great Men and Women of Asia' series, is recounted as an Internet chat between two friends to appeal to young readers

CONTEMPORARY PHILIPPINE history records August as the month of deaths of individuals highly admired like Cory Aquino (Aug. 1), Cory Aquino's lawyer Secretary Jesus Dureza (Aug. 21), Ninoy Aquino (Aug. 31), and the most recents, P-Noy's Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo (Aug. 18). These deaths should give greatest relevance and meaning to the annual holiday at the end of the month, National Heroes Day.

The extensive media coverage heralded the extraordinary public servant Jesse Robredo, and drew such public interest and curiosity because of the honorable and dramatic circumstances of his passing juxtaposed with the grace, serenity and courage of his wife Leni and three daughters.

Happily, the Great Men and Women of Asia—Children's series included an illustrated Jesse Robredo biography for young readers, by virtue of his having been a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service in 2000.

Robredo's accomplishments as lengendary mayor of Naga are documented in a manner that children will relate to, through a series of Internet chats between two young boys, simply identified as XOOBY, writing from the US, and MariDude2000, a holidaymen on brood vacation in his parents' hometown, Naga City where he is complaining of sheer boredom.

What kind of vacation is this, he says, when all we do is attend my parents' reunions with all their friends, and I have to kiss folks I am seeing for the first time!

It is such a sleepy town, Mari describes Naga, that he even wonders if it has any Internet at all. He is surprised that it does, making possible the communication with XOOBY to continue. He can't wait for the days of boredom to finally end.

It turns out to be quite an unusual vacation, for Mari's announcement that he has met the city mayor leads his incredulous friend to ask how that ever happened. Was his friend of any importance for the mayor to bother with him?

In Mari reveals more details about the mayor, they both agree that this mayor, visible in T-shirt and shorts "does sound weird... but interesting!" Interesting enough for XooBoo to ask for the mayor's autograph. Why weird? He was playing basketball in the streets instead of doing "mayor stuff," and did not have bodyguards shadowing him all the time.

## Biking around the city

An outlier to American where guns, club phones and walkie-talkies would be standard fare for security detail, Mayor Jesse, as the Naga citizens call him, likes biking around the city—why does he not own a car?

Mari's anecdotes are narrated, revealing the grit and the character of former Mayor Robredo. When he hiked into the foothills one afternoon in search of a little girl who had run away from home, the mayor wondered, What is an election gimmick that he would go to all that trouble? That was easily dismissed, because it was his last year in office and could not run again as mayor.

Of course, Mari's holidaymen visit coincides with a typhoon, with Naga as the hardest hit, the worst in 12 years. Call it the highlight of 18 days of boredom. It was a familiar scenario, with many homes under water and residents scooting in by rescued. Mari's cousins were part of the youth rescue team that Robredo had organized precisely for such crises.

The story to top all stories was that the morning after the storm, Robredo was seen at the resort plaza with a long broom sweeping away the debris. Why bother sweeping in any serving more, many of the Naga citizens did the same in the areas outside their homes.

This short biography is merely an introduction to this public servant, but enough to pique curiosity. Thus, it is helpful that this book and the others in the series of Singaporean researchers and the Modern Filipino Heroes includes a more detailed biographical account in the inside back cover, with the story itself forming on specific incidents in the hero's life. It is such human interest incidents that are woven together to highlight the distinct qualities of heroism and greatness.

The format of this biography, recently in Internet chat style, should make it readers and less formidable reading, especially for reluctant readers. The use of informal addresses "bugs and the boys' exaggerated expressions are other appealing features. The conversation is punctuated with "dudes," the trip to Naga described as "serious," with Mari's methods of referring to this homecoming in his country of birth as one that would "build character." What initially appeared to be a trip "that was as not a vacation" emerged as one that truly built character, because of the dude's meeting with a real life hero.

"THE PUBLIC'S Servant" with illustrations by KC Salvador

The books are available at the Bookmark office, 264 Pablo Ocampo St. (formerly Mabini), tels. 8933091 to 93, e-mail bookmark.mail@yahoo.com or bookmark1561@gmail.com.

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UNTIL Sept. 15 at selected SM Department stores, a P500 minimum purchase of Goody hair products entitles one to an exclusive pass to the Cover Play with Goody Styling, Modeling and Blogging Workshops, plus a chance to audition for the Goody fashion show.

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# Shooting a perfect 'Nine'

In front of me, assembled by Atlantis Productions, under the guidance of Bobby Garcia, were nine of the most beautiful and talented actors in Philippine theater

By Raymund Isaac
Cover feature

BEFORE I WAS totally consumed by photography, my mail had been a slave to another form of art, the theaters.

In fact back in Univ. remember, the theater bug bears my source of inspiration and passion. Believe it or not, I have been acting since grade school, directing in a theme since high school, and directing plays since college.

So it is no wonder that now, in my not-so-new career, I suppose the theater arts become it as the only way I can reconnect with my old love.

I live vicariously through the actors when I see them perform. I cannot help but express my desire to be in their shoes again. One such opportunity came when Atlantis Productions came to my studio to have a pictorial for its upcoming musical "Nine."

I've been familiar with the musical since high school because one night when the Tony Awards were being aired on Channel 9, the image of a prostitute singing "Be Italian" to a group of young boys stuck to me like glue. Maybe it was homosexual, maybe it was that catholic mind inside yearning to grow but whatever it was, I loved it! "Nine" won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Most musicals made into movies evolve stories that deviate from the original stage productions, and they sometimes add or delete musical numbers, depending on the director or the actors involved.

The movie version of "Nine" and the stage production were entirely different, mainly because of the target audience. The stage production assumes to have a theater going audience. The movie broadens this target audience to make more people appreciate the theater.

That's why most of the numbers in the movie are more commercial, and the story compressed and simplified.

The stage musical, however, is more stylized because of the presence of an immediate audience; the response is instantaneous.

## Daydream

Eight sweet, eight beautiful women who inspire a seemingly uninspired director. Yup that with your beautiful, haunting melodies for such muse, and I was in 7th heaven.

I would sing those songs in my head, directing the actors, designing the stage, lighting it the way my mind and heart would see it. I daydream.

Now the dream has turned into reality. In front of me, assembled by Atlantis Productions, under the guidance of Bobby Garcia, were nine of the most beautiful and talented actors in Philippine theaters. There, too, was Iyuko, the controversial Italian director whose plight is the theme of the musical.

The cast includes Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, whom I fondly remember as the young girl in "The Fernandezes" and "Iyuta." I always got that school crush and I wanted to be like her. Her poise and beauty conceal the secret of eternal youth. But her beauty is surpassed by her voice and that ability to become any character in Philippine theaters. There, too, was Iyuko, the controversial Italian director whose plight is the theme of the musical.

Cherie Gil—all together now: "You're nothing but a second rate, crying hard soprano!"

This iconic actress needs no introduction. She sings, she acts and she conquers all media. Fresh from theater surgery, she bravely bounces back to perform in this musical.

Nothing seems to faze this iconic actress, and I must admit, I would not want to be caught in her crosshairs. She plays Liliane, former Folies Bergere dancer and now producer for Guido's latest film.

Isabel Oli is revered as all in "Sa Dos Lineras, the Musical," "Who would have guessed that beautiful face and body had a really wonderful voice? Popularly known as Anne Dewees and Black Lily, this sweet oozes of class is one woman I truly admire, as down to earth; what you see is what you get. She doesn't think any role is too small or too big for her caliber.

Isabel performs beautifully as Claudia, the diva film actress and muse to Guido in the musical.

Toni Navarro needs a name in the industry as the bossa-nova queen, apparently she is an unsavored singer, you know better known by the theater bug. She plays the Lady of the Spa. And she delivers. Did you know she came out in a Tony award-winning musical, "Spring Awakening"?

Carla Guevara Laforteza—I have this bundle of energy, whom I last saw in "Bronze U" and "Spelling Bee." For those who know her petite, Glaiza Marquez can see in awe dexterously for film and Gigi in "Miss Saigon" in 1995-1997. She was also miss stable of actors in ABS-CBN.

This seasoned actress swims in know no boundaries. Whether it be on the stage, TV or the movies, she contributes with her energy, bravery and talent. She plays Guido's neurotic mistress, Carla.

Ina Guero is another alumni of "Miss Saigon." I don't know if she even remembers that I was one of the five photographers who shot her. I did her first album cover. When I first met her in my studio, she was a shy seventeen-year.

Fast-forward to 15 years, she came back from London a different woman. Standing before me was someone like a phoenix who emerged from the ashes—she has become that powerhouse performer we all know.

Ms Jane drops every time she performs. Kill 'em softly, or am I just amazed that this woman has a voice that can bring the house down?

She plays the prostitute Saraghina, who sings the show-stopping "Be Italian."

## Powerful presence

I cried when she played Abuela Claudia in the musical, "In the Heights." I was stupefied when I saw her as Madame Armfeldt in "A Little Night Music."

But what amazes me is her reserved yet powerful presence. I have always been a fan of Jaz Laurente, and I think I always will be. She has this magnetic presence, courage that makes me sympathize with whatever role she portrays.

In this musical she plays Guido's mother, whom Sophia Loren emerged from retirement to portray. If that doesn't say how important the role is, I don't know what does.

Even the musical dynamo has its own "it" girl, so people, meet Sandi Lazard.

Philippine theater has so many talented

JETT Pangan

CAST of "Nine," (left) Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Jaz Laurente, Sandi Lazard

RAYMUND Isaac with the beautiful girls of "Nine"

Lazarte. With that bloodline, this young woman, no wonder, is one of the most sought-after actresses. Young as she is, she has already done numerous works that include "Isinumpa," "Spring Awakening," "Legally Blonde" and "Little Shrimplet."

Watching her perform is like feeling a breath of fresh air on stage. In this musical, she reprises Kate Hudson's role in the movie...somewhat. Though the movie and musical characters are both named Stephanie, in the stage version, Stephanie is a film critic and musician producer in Guido's newest film. The two Stephanies also sing different songs.

Playing Guido Contini is none other than the most sought-after leading man in Philippine musical theater today, Jett Pangan, whom everybody knows as the lead singer of award-winning group The Eraserheads.

How does a rock star suddenly become a stage actor, and a very good one at that?

The answer is simple: talent, loss and loss-ette.

Jett is among those I consider a true artist, inside and out. He breathes it, he lives it.

For him to pour above describing Jett is finding the words. All I can do is stand in awe and bow to his presence. He can play funny, sorrow, and as we discovered in "Rock of Ages," he dances, too! Is there no end to his genius?

I cannot imagine a more perfect cast for "Nine"—well, if they made me an understudy for Antonietta, it would be perfect! But I cannot serve two gods at one time, so I choose to stay where I am and avoid future rivalry.

With this powerhouse cast assembled in one musical, one is so tempted to search, even if you are not familiar with the musical. Whether you have seen the film or not, I advise you to see the live on stage.

"Nine" runs Sept. 21-Oct. 7, (Friday-Sunday) at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Call 8925859 or 8181287, or Ticketworld at 891-9999. Visit www.atlantisproductions.com.

LIFESTYLE

# Manners at the movies

The cinema is a great place to see how people really behave; many act as if there is no one else around

JUST THE basics, folks. Imagine watching a movie, and seated beside you is someone who's texting every 10 minutes. It is the most annoying movie experience one can have.

Even if the mobile phone is silent, its intermittent flashes of light are extremely bothersome. Maybe texting once is tolerable, more than that means you're not being considerate of others. Manners are strictly their basic consideration of those around you.

It's in the movies where you see a mix of different personalities, and you don't even have to speak to them, not like at a party. It's where you see how people behave, and most people act as if there is no one else in the movie theater except them.

For instance, the loud people bring in. Again, popcorn, nachos, chips and a drink are standard movie fare, with the occasional candy bar or gummi bears. What do they have in common? None of them smells. Okay, so buttered popcorn smells, but it smells nice.

A burger loaded with onions or fried chicken or even pizza does not smell anywhere near good. It can be consuming. So aside from cell phone etiquette inside the movie theater, please observe food etiquette; consider the smell as well.

Getting out of the theater is another thing altogether. Please allow the people in front of you to go ahead of you by moving out of their seats to the aisle. If there is space, you can move forward. You might sit, which theater does she go to? Believe it or not, jostling happens everywhere, even to supposedly high-end theaters.

**Holding hands**

About kissing and cuddling. Although I see nothing wrong with couples holding hands or having their arms around each other while watching a movie, I would advise that it be left at that. Anything beyond that makes those around you completely uncomfortable.

At a cartoon or a family movie, it is adorable to hear children's laughter or gasps of excitement. But in a movie that is neither a cartoon nor a family movie, children have no place. I've seen families bring small children in action films, and once serious films where they wiggle, whine and cry.

Please don't kick the chair in front of you. I suffer such fate each time I watch a movie. When you kick the chair in front of you, it bothers the person seated on it. I once looked back at the woman seated behind me, and she still did not get it. If someone was kicking your seat from behind, you would get annoyed, too.

Lastly, this is a true story and I am even embarrassed to write it, but we remove every shoe in the household. How did I know someone removed his shoes close to where I was seated? The smell.

Next time you go and enjoy a movie, kindly be considerate to those around you so that they, too, can enjoy the movie. Wait for the DVD? Well, that too, but sometimes it is more enjoyable to watch a movie on the big screen.

*Liu S. Bernardo*

MODERN MANNERS


SHIELA EDELMAN www.shielababes.blogspot.com

## Goodbye, 180-pound me! Hello, new life!

You can say my outlook has changed for the better when my body started to change.
Growing up, I had what they call "fat genes". But I never let my weight hinder me from all the activities—not even when I weighed my heaviest at 130 kilos. So like every other person, I went to the gym. It was 2.5 years of actively working out that I got my weight down to a nice 154 lbs.

My heaviest at 286 lbs. – NEVER AGAIN!

And then it plateaued. I thought that was the end of my weight-loss journey. And all I looked like was an average gym-goer. There was no waist, no sexiness, nothing. I had to do something different. Something that can also fit in my work schedule.

So I tried another route, this time non-invasive treatments. I heard about the Marie France Pro Plus program. They promised that if you don't lose your agreed weight in 100 days, you get your money back. And that was all a skeptic like me needed to hear.

On my 3rd month, I had lost 19.4 lbs. Now, I've lost a total of 30.8 lbs. My gay friend told me, "Shiela, ang ganda ng pagkupayat mo. Hindi huggard!" I was just giddy with excitement. Today, I'm still doing my program because I feel closer to my target weight of 125 lbs.

So, dear readers, if you think the body you have now is the absolute smallest it can be, take a chance at Marie France and she'll surprise you. Call 894-2639 and maybe you'll get to write your own weight-loss story too.

Best of luck!

*shiela*

Hi, I'm Shiela!
This is my Marie France story.

A must-try!

## A new smart phone or a new, sexy, slim body?

Think about it – is it better to spend your money on a new trendy gadget, the latest IT Bag – OR invest in a slimmer, sexier body that will last and last?

If you want to put your money to better use, then investing in a new you is the way to go. Let Marie France help you with their new Pro-Plus money-back guarantee program. How does it work? It's easy – you lose the agreed weight or you get your money back. No ifs, No buts. It's the ultimate deal everyone's been waiting for! Pick up the phone now and ask how you can sign up for the Marie France Guaranteed Program.

Ask about the MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE! No ifs, No buts.

Call 894-2639 now!
Like Shiela, your new body awaits at Marie France.

# Kuh Ledesma makes the most of yet another talent

The singer and businesswoman has rediscovered her art, and paints 'metaphors of life' for her one-woman exhibit

By Margie C. Enriquez
Correspondent

SINGER, BUSINESSWOMAN, dreamer, hotelier and evangelist, Kuh Ledesma has discovered that a sense of purpose is the deepest expression of the heart and soul. Recently, she rekindled her passion for painting, which renews her interior feelings.

On Sept. 12, she will hold a preview of her exhibit, "Unexpected," at Whitespace, followed by a full exhibit starting Sept. 13.

The themes are metaphors of life and studies in flat shapes, bold colors, and curvilinear and rectangular patterns. She describes her style as "abstract," merely because she is not copying anyone's technique.

"I do a lot of lines," she said. "I've got black and gold, colorful and white themes."

It's an oft-repeated story, how she loved painting in her youth but got sidetracked to remunerative careers.

"The canvas made me focus on music," she said. Now at an age when she doesn't need to travel, she might herself learn to paint...and is learning the business of selling her art.

On how she got serious about painting, she quoted the painter of the lubrica, about the manner who gave his three servants oil cans (a form of currency) according to their skills. One received eight talents, the second received four and the last received one.

When the master met them again, the two who increased their talents were rewarded. But the one who received one talent and hid it in the ground was punished for inertness.

The moral is to make the most of what was given us, she said.

Ledesma seeks Divine Guidance by waking up at 5 a.m., and starting the day with a thanksgiving prayer and Bible study. She would paint for as long as 18 hours in a makeshift studio at Hacienda Isabella in Cavite ,on her home in Mandaluyong.

KUH LEDESMA'S "Harvest," inspired by the Biblical stories on abundance

KUH LEDESMA with "Fragrant"

## Purifying powers

Some paintings were washed in black and embellished with enduring gold patterns. Ledesma said they were allusions to the blackened soul being transformed into gold by God's purifying powers.

Others were abstractions of a broken orb, compositions of rectangular patterns and flowers.

"When I visit museums abroad, I would look at the paintings more closely and examine their detail and textures. In modern art, anything is possible," she said. "A painter paints from the inside. It's the inner soul of what you've experienced. When you're connected with God, you paint the things that still glimly I See."

Ledesma cited that aside from painting, decorating was a childhood talent. She drew master plans of communities and building prospectives.

The talent for interior design was put to good use when Hacienda Isabella was built.

The place was a small five-bedroom farmhouse on a 0.5-hectare property in Biñadoy, Cavite. When a friend held his wedding at the garden, guests started making inquiries for possible bookings, and Ledesma saw the business potential.

Today, the 30-room property consists of 12 buildings and a variable rate.

Ledesma favored a rustic look, with whitewashed walls and uneven floors emphasizing the time-worn look of the antique furniture and the exaggerated proportions of their stylings. All the beds are framed with sheer curtains.

Over time, she added color, such as sand colors for the Marrakesh room and red for the Chinoiserie.

"I started with Intimate and a lot of Hispano antiques, then it went on to other decorative styles," she said.

On hindsight, Ledesma is grateful for how the Bible has taught her how to trade, just like talents. "It's a extraordinary for income on how to live an abundant life."

Whitespace is at 2314, Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

A VIGNETTE composed of a black-and-white abstraction of a harvest...and resale furniture

A BLOCK painting with abstract foliage design is a focal point in the Oriental room

UNFINISHED work at the bar

THE ORIGINAL horse which has been turned into other equines and mule fish

# How to avoid 'shopping traps'

## The Consumer
Linda B. Bolido

CAROLE MOORE of Bankrate.com, in an article in MSN Money says, despite good intentions, many people spend more than they should.

Moore says these "nearly shopping mistakes" cause consumers to overspend their budget or buy things they do not need, or even want. She offers suggestions on how to avoid some "of the most common shopping traps."

The latter probably heard the expression "retail therapy." Some people thought the blues or is a-low boredom. Moore quotes financial expert and bestselling author Gallie Gobyn who says, often, consumers who turn shopping into a hobby or a sport "haven't done the math to determine whether they can even afford their purchases."

Gobyn recommends "creating a budget that you stick a weekly amount for such expenses." The shopping "holidays," she says, can spend the allowance on anything he/she likes but once the money is spent there should be no more spending for the week.

Moore adds that people who consider shopping a hobby or sport should stay out of the mall during office breaks and leave their credit cards at home.

The need to save...or be among the first to have—the latest technology can also result in overspending. Moore calls this obsession "one of the deadliest of spending traps."

Jim Gaston, financial author and speaker from Georgia who says, "The longer you wait for new technology, the better." He says waiting has several advantages: "Not only does the cost fall, but the developers work out the kinks over time, and you get a better product."

Moore also warns against "mistaking phoneys for savings." Buying added ingredients that have already been cut may save time but it will cost more. "Food that has been 'pre' anything—chopped, cooked or marinated—is one of the most expensive ways to purchase [groceries]," says Ellie Katz, the author of "The 30-Minute Money Makeover."

Bulk buying, Moore says, is advisable "when the items are ones you know you will use before they expire. Bulk toilet paper for a household with multiple bathrooms and lots of family members might be a good investment, while a purchase of four dozen eggs may result in waste if you end up choosing some away" she points out.

People should also know when to buy branded products and when to get generic brands. Moore quotes Gaston—"There are some exceptions, but brand-name buying is not always the best indicator of quality."

Consumers should also try to avoid reaching the clearance rule limit. People have often found themselves buying items they do not need just to get to the sale.

## Search for 10 winners

Nominations are being accepted for the 10 Phoenix of Excellence search. Deadline is Sept. 26. Online voting will be up Oct. 1-15.

The awards was launched by Tupperware Brands Philippines to recognize Filipino "women who showed exemplary impact and helped bring about positive change."

Nominations forms can be downloaded from Tupperware's fan page. Like the page and click on the 1 Am Excellence tab (www.facebook.com/tupperwarebrandsphi/1amexcellence).

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th/6th Chino Roces Ave. ext. Mecorda and Yague Sts., 1200 Makati City, fax 897-0753/94, or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

# Raffles Residences Makati showcases Filipino art

LOCAL ARTWORKS will provide guests an authentic encounter with Philippine culture at Raffles Residences Makati.

The original Philippine artwork will be presented outside every residential unit of the luxury residential development, making it a haven for contemporary art appreciation.

Each floor will carry a theme executed by a local artist, so that it becomes a veritable art exhibit itself.

James Bevans, hotel manager of the Raffles Makati, says that the new collection aims to showcase the richness of Philippine history and culture. "We invited an international art consultant to work with the interior design team and curators herself to look for and find the right objects and to provide a glimpse of Philippine culture through the works of outstanding contemporary painters."

The themes are diverse, ranging from an abstract interpretation of the Makati skyline to the Flores de Mayo festival.

On the 15th floor, the embroideries and gauzy of the Flores de Mayo is portrayed in the acrylics of Clarissa Edisara. There are vignettes of this religious festival with windows of old Philippine homes.

Details of Filipino heritage homes by Alexis Acosta comprise the theme of another floor, done in impressionistic style.

Acosta captures the intricate details of household items found in the homes of Mindanao's indigenous peoples. They will be displayed at the Owners' Lounge. Access to patron Islamic designs and calligraphy.

"We are pleased that the art pieces complement the unrivaled standards of this unique complex as a whole," says Bevans.

ALSENI Acosta captures intricate details of household items found in the homes of Mindanao's indigenous peoples

EXUBERANCE and gauzy of the Flores de Mayo segment as seen in the acrylics of Clarissa Edisara.

FROM left, Bacl Milano plates with cutlery designs; dinnerware tea set including a miniature sales carousel with fancy pieces; colorful Bacl Milano glassware from Dimensions

# 'Nomadic' (no wiring) lamps, other conversation pieces

DIMENSIONS NOW offers Bross and Ikea's Smoon Cage and Water Smoon lamps.

Bross and Ikea lamps are charged just like a mobile phone to give 10 hours of light.

For the indoors or the outdoors, the lamps are rain resistant, perfect for patios and the poolside.

The Water Smoon is the first waterproof, wireless and rechargeable LED- light resisting (bulb) lamp; it was designed in 2005 by Arjeta Marshall & Linda Sweeney. It is also known as Normal Smoon, given its nomadic design.

It can be used anywhere, without the need for wiring or electrical outlets; no wall sockets are needed.

For 2012, the Water Normal Smoon has been redesigned as the Smoon Cage. The French design team placed moon rays inside the bird cage to create a lovely lamp that looks like a lighted Chinese lamp.

The Smoon cage makes lovely a conversation piece in the living room or in the garden. It has sensitive switching sensors, just like the Water Smoon, and switches on and off with a tap of a finger. Crafted in porcelain, it integrates itself in any space.

Light for both lamps comes from a group of Power LED of 6565 lumens; these LEDs are the new generation of environment-friendly light source, better than CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs), both in energy efficiency and life span.

Dimensions also has elegant dinner tables and tableware. The new dining suite comes in solid rubberwood with natural finish—six- or four-seaters with solid backrest and padded seats.

Dimensions has extra-long and colorful drinking glasses, salad bowls and plates that are easy to stack and store. The Bacl Milano Spring/Summer 2012 tableware has brilliant colors that can be mixed and matched.

Dimensions's flagship store is at Bonifacio High Street Boutique Row of Rainforest Mall, Home Zone, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Robinsons Place Manila, Parkwood, Trillium and Greenhill 5.

WATER Smoon is the first waterproof, wireless LED lamp. It is a prize winner of Innovation in 2004



COLORFUL Bacl Milano tableware



SOLID rubberwood dining set in natural finish

SPOON Cuprite French design team of Sylvie Marechal and Linda Sweeney can be used outdoors or indoors

WATER Smoon can be used as night floaters for swimming pools.

BABY Arenas, Tonni Lagdameo, mst. Dulce Cepeda

HOSTOR Jordis DJ Lopez, Baby Cruz

UNWTO Ambassador Jorge Domecq, Rustan's president Zenaida Tantoco, Italian Ambassador Luca Fornari

CONSUL Tony Bolivar, Mira Bolivar, Sen. Edgardo Angara, Marinella Maigres

MAESTRA comedora (master diner) Francisca Torralba

METROBANK Card Corp. president Rita Abdon-Lubrano, Rustan Commercial Corp. president Zenaida Tantoco, Sen. Edgardo Angara, Spanish Ambassador Jorge Domecq, Rosa Domecq, Consorcio de Jabugo's Oscar Lorena, ING president Dennis Tantoco, Rustan's executive vice president Anton Huang

VICENTE Soliba

MARIO Katigbak, Susan Javier, Marilen Tantoco, mst. Criselda Lontok

MICHAEL and Catherine Huang

ANASTROL Trevor Capeda Bisso, Jojo Zubiaga, Peng Valencia

JOAH Bautista, Vicky Zubiri, Stella Bangzon, Marivic Vazquez, Marissa Araneta

# Rustan's features the fire and flavors of passionate Spain this September

ERIC Ramilo-Jones, Nina Quintana, Evanesia Adonis, Ambassador Luca Fornari, Carlos Palanca Jr.

RUSTAN'S SUCCESSFULLY launched Corazon de Espana in cooperation with the Spanish Embassy, Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Instituto de Comercio Exterior de Espana, Consorcio de Jabugo's Oscar Lorena, RSI specialists Inc. and Rustan's Supermarkets, Commissary.

For the entire September, the focus will be the vibrant lifestyle of Spain as reflected in Rustan's collections that showcase the fashion, tableware and superb flavors of passionate España, no less.

Hosting the grand opening last Tuesday were notable wives from Ambassador Jorge Domecq and other members of their diplomatic corps.

Hosted by ANA VAN HAGEN and powered by RSMN MUSIC SHOWS

Also in attendance were Rustan's Supermarkets, Commissary president Rikki Abdon-Lubrano, Rustan's Commercial Corp. president Zenaida Tantoco, Rustan's Supercenters Inc. president Bonnie Tantoco, and Rustan's executive vice president Anton Huang. The last noted "the centuries of meaningful relationship between Spain and the Philippines."

Wide Smiles

Ambassador Domecq said in his welcome speech, "Spanish influences abound in our arts and culture and in our way of life, including my attempt to speak Spanish tonight," he said to the applause and laughter of the crowd. "Let us cherish this special bond that ties us closer to home, let us say, and say, that in fact, Corazon de España also lives in the heart of Filipinos.

"I'd like to also thank and announce that La Comarca has provided the Spanish chef for Rustan's cooking demonstrations, while Rustan's Gourmet will be giving free Spanish classes and Spanish books during the month-long celebration."

The mentioned two special personalities—the expert manager of Consorcio de Jabugo Cajas Negras, author Oscar Lorena, and the master carnicero or master slicer of the to-die-for Iberian Jabugo, la señora Francisca "Paquita" Torralba, who has arrived in directly from Spain to be part of this awesome festivities.

Señora Torralba's fine hand-slicing demo is part of Rustan's "Taste of Spain," hands-on of the finest and freshest assortment of Spanish cheeses, wines and cold cuts from their private Iberian Bellota, Gran Reserva, and 100, Consorcio de Jabugo, Jabugo.

WILD and fiery flamenco dancing

COLORFUL shawls on from Rustan's

We couldn't get enough of the other attractions, especially "La Vida Limbra," sensual exhibition of centuries-old crafted porcelain figurines and haute couture displayed in chic floor glasses.

For the women, there's "Belleza Española," an exhibition on Spain's gorgeous hats and most desirable delicate veils, with ones from traditional Spanish craft label Solaré, which has been worn by no less than Queen Sofia.

The spotlight will be on the loveliest Castellana couture and accessories from fashion labels Sofia Mayorca and Uosa. Also on exhibit are Manicures de Manila.

Spain's refined rugged aesthetic for men is on exhibit, too, courtesy of Pedro del Hierro, Massimo Dutti, Springfield and Zara. For children's fashion, there's ready-to-wear Pitch & Stich. Spain's most popular kid's wear brand.

Spanish fragrances featured are Heritas de Rosa, Gotas de Oro Classica, Cortina, Femenin Cologne and Puro de Rebe.

It was an awesome night of Fiery Zamora, no dancing, with an exhibition of bullfighter's capes. There were also yummy yummy heavy hor d'oeuvre of Spanish delights and endless servings of slices of the divine iberico ham, all downed with the best Spanish wines and bubbly, of course.

"Metrobank Card holders are entitled to special privileges during the Spanish fest, like including a limited-edition Consorcio de Jabugo canvas bag for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P5,000 of Rustan's Spanish merchandise," Vicky Tantoco told the crowd.

Corazon de Espana Spanish Festival 2012 runs until Sept. 30 at Rustan's Ayala Center Makati (tel. 8127281), Shangri-La Plaza (6344656); Alabang Town Center (8088861); Gateway Mall, Araneta Center (9126402); and Ayala Center Cebu (032-2315643.)

## Cecil Go's paintings

Cecil Go, the Argentine tango master and coach, drew a crowd of admirers to "El encuentro Tanguista," his first one-man exhibit of art collectibles at Dr. Ayala Museum's Artist Space, dubbings.

Go unveiled a series of contemporary tango images and embossed the artistry with his handcrafted facsimile of polished metal and damaging wood. He also arranged the lyrics and genius into imaginative designs, dubbings.

AVILDO, Adora's Tandee Yemael Bilbao, Cecil Go

ANNIE and Eduardo Rocha with daughter Alexandra Rocha

TETCHIE Yamat, Edra Ledesma, Maita Olbascin, Joy Cortes, Anne Jacobs, Cecil Go, Arlene Cua, Cha Bautista, Tita Hilary

CRISTINA and Margo Villanueva Muriel, Paulo and Gina Tantoco, Aileen Valledares

NINI Lizarra, Brix Costa, Helen Ong

JOHNS Lam, Mario Katigbak, Grace Diary Go, Patrick Dolotia, Criselda Lontok, Ado Escudero

Ana Sin, Cecil's eye-catching daughter, joined in from Davao to open the successful exhibit on the second floor walkway of Greenbelt 5 and 4, paintings. Flowers by designer and chairman Ana were buried to view the rest of the hangings inside. The star-fiore, Angie Lauson of Ayllusional Development charted with Marilen Gastilo, museum head, and later bought the painting "Yellow Landscape Swipe."

Interior designer Rose Orosa was so impressed that he said, "I am commissioning Cecil to design and paint for a huge project."

Premium red and white wine were served during the opening. Passed around were cheese varieties, grapes, and canapés of pâté, veggies and bruschetta.

Lorna Lourd with daughter Bella chatted with Tetchie Yemael Bilbao of Adora. Tetchie is Cecil's No. 1 fan and dedicated tango student.

Cecil took 12 years of lessons from the tango master himself, Rudy Herrera. Take a bow, Cecil!

## Nava to serve lunch

Nava is back and it has been making waves with its repackaging, dubbings, Starting Sept. 16, it will be serving lunch, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Call (2)479-0604/Garcia at Paseo, Greenbelt 3, Makati (0906-3062601, 0999-2500190, 7573888 ext.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Bonnin-G. Velarde

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**HEARD**

**Spartan workout**

BEACHLAW JAPANESE Monk Daniel Matsunaga keeps himself busy sweating it out. He said on Twitter: "Sweating ready for my Spartan workout in a bit . . . three hours of fukkatsu [redone from bath]." He tweeted on Thursday: "Wkpa nalang kapom po . . . may game ako mamaya sa Fort BGC at 6:30 p.m. . . . a wrap pucha ni ya nanaman. Sorry!"

**Rayan I. Ear Dayo Jr**

HEART Evangelista and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

# Miriam finds dates for Heart

The actress says she and Chiz are 'not officially together'

By Marinel R. Cruz

HEART Evangelista and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago have become unlikely wingmen for each other.

Santiago has been trying to find a date for Evangelista, who is single, while the actress has been helping the senator find a boyfriend.

Evangelista revealed: "One time, she even asked me, 'Heart, do you want me on this or not?' This is not because she hopes for Chiz to be my boyfriend."

Santiago, according to Evangelista, "just wants me to discover what else is out there aside from show business."

The actress even said: "There was one time she called to say, 'Pat spoken to someone. He said he would like to meet you. I told him you'll see him next week.'"

Evangelista, however, stressed that the date Santiago reportedly arranged between her and Presidente Aquino "was just a joke."

"Isn't she funny? She's so sana," Evangelista said of Santiago's efforts to find her a boyfriend.

Evangelista admitted having gone out on dinner dates with Escudero many times.

She added, though, she was still uncertain of what to call their relationship. "We're just getting to know each other. Ay to the possibility of us being together, ask me again after six months. I don't joke things. I just go with the flow."

Saying dreams with Escudero, Evangelista said they "talk about anything and everything."

She added: "We seldom discuss politics, only when I have

return E2

CHIZ Escudero

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls
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1 Ang Nawawala
9:30am • 11:50am • 2:10pm
The Mistress
5:05pm • 10:05pm
11:30pm

2 Resident Evil: Retribution
7:00pm • 9:05pm • 11:10pm
7:15pm • 9:40pm • 12:00mn

3 Resident Evil: Retribution 3D
4:30pm • 6:55pm
9:20pm • 11:45pm

4 The Mistress
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11:40pm

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3 The Mistress
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5 The Mistress
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7 Resident Evil: Retribution

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1 Resident Evil: Retribution
11:00am • 1:10pm • 3:20pm
5:30pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm

2 Resident Evil: Retribution 3D
10:00am • 12:10pm
4:20pm • 10:30pm
Ang Nawawala 2D
12:00mn • 4:10pm • 8:20pm

3 The Mistress 2D
10:30am • 1:10pm • 4:00pm
8:40pm • 9:30pm

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DOLBY DIGITAL

# Miriam finds dates for Heart

From page E1

questions. I don't talk about my work to others. That's why I think it's nice to go out with somebody who doesn't do the same thing you do. You learn so much from him."

Evangelista described Escudero as "very down to earth. He's not as serious as he appears to be in public. He's a good conversationalist. We talk about books we've read and places we've been to. We get along well. We can go on and on about something and not notice (the time)."

Evangelista, however, insisted that "we are not officially together. This is just a 'getting out' thing. I'm taking my time." She claimed she's "perfectly happy being single."

"I have more for myself now," she related. "I'm free to do what I want. If ever I'd get in to another relationship, I want it to be more private. I've learned my lesson the hard way. Nothing in life is certain—even relationships eventually end. It's better to just keep quiet because many people get hurt as a result of every public breakup."

Evangelista, whose last boyfriend was Brazilian-Japanese fashion model Daniel Matsunaga, said she now prefers athletic partners.

"Be it ninja Aspog Pinay (Filipinos are usually one of a kind). Don't get me wrong—Daniel is a nice guy. It's just that we were brought up very differently," she said, hinting that she and Matsunaga differed in their views about marriage.

The actress confessed there was a time she got so depressed about her failed relationships that she thought she was "destined to be alone."

"I even thought I would just adopt a kid," she said. "Now, I enjoy my alone time. I like eating at a restaurant all by myself while reading a good book. At least now I get to spend time with my friends, like Lovi (Poe) and Alessandra (de Rossi)."

In "Lima Hearts," Evangelista (as Maricel will be working closely with Ramon King. The latter will play Evangelista's namesake Lena, who was born with a very dark complexion and is believed to be an offspring of an ingkanto (fairy spirit). The movie, directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, airs on weeknights after "24 Oras" on GMA-7.

E-mail mrom@inquirer.com.ph

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
2: PARANORMAN (2D)/THE MISTRESS
3: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
4: WIL
5: POSSESSION
6: THE MISTRESS
7: THE MISTRESS

GREENBELT
1: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
2: THE MISTRESS

GREENBELT 3
1: THE MISTRESS
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
3: WIL
4: PARANORMAN (3D)/THE WATCH
5: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE MISTRESS
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
3: PARANORMAN (2D)/POSSESSION
4: THE WATCH
5: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION

ayala CENTER CEBU
1: PARANORMAN (2D)/THE MISTRESS
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
3: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
4: THE MISTRESS

MARQUEE
1: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
3: THE MISTRESS
4: PARANORMAN/THE MISTRESS

MARKET! MARKET!
1: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION (3D)
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
3: THE WATCH
4: PARANORMAN (3D)/POSSESSION
5: THE MISTRESS
6: THE MISTRESS
7: MISTRESS

TRINOMA
1: WIL
2: RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION
3: PARANORMAN/THE MISTRESS
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# 'Idols' refresher: Brackensick, last of wildcard finalists

By Princess Daisy Ginzinga

HERE'S part 3 of the big-size series on the the Top 36 finalists of "American Idol" Season 11, who will perform live on Sept. 21 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

* * *

Finishing eighth place, Definitely Brackensick was known for his laid-back and relaxing vibes, plus his curly long hair which figured prominently in his performances.

Definitely, along with Colton Dixon and Hollie Cavanagh, won a reduction from Season 10. All three were out before the live shows because the judges felt they were not yet ready.

After getting through in his auditions for Season 11, Definitely and Jessica Sanchez got a standing ovation from the judges in the group rounds with their superb rendition of Buddy Holly's "It Doesn't Matter Anymore."

Definitely's R&B singing style was compared to Maxwell and DeBarge. In the final judgment leading to the Top 25, he sang Maxwell's "This Woman's Work," prompting a remark from Jennifer Lopez that she's been waiting for Definitely to sing that song.

Although he did not get enough votes to make it into the Top 13, he was picked as one of the wildcard contestants. He sang "Georgia on My Mind," which prompted Steven Tyler to let him move on to the Top 12.

He always elicited laughter whenever he used his long hair in a pretzel every time Ryan Seacrest told him that he was safe from elimination.

During the '90s theme week, DeAndre sang "I Like It" by DeBarge, and although he got decent comments from the judges, his votes were not enough to let him stay on in the competition.

He was eliminated that week, making him the last of the validated contestants to be booted off the show.

A couple of months after the season finale, Definitely tweeted that he was dating Jessica.

HARCO Pictures

# 'Full monty' guy uncovered

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ACTOR Marco Morales gained notoriety in the '80s for baring all onscreen—particularly in indie movies like "Walang Kawala" (2000) and "Heavenly Touch" (2004).

He was the first local actor to do a full-frontal nude scene in indie films.

"I have no regrets," he said of his past exploits. "I'm thankful that I was carefree and that people still remember my name."

He never had hang-ups about showing off his assets. He grew up in Sydney, Australia, where onscreen nudity is no big deal.

As he slowed down onscreen, he focused on singing. Briefly, he performed at bistros here in Greenbelt, Makati.

When he arrived in Manila seven years ago, he worked as a musician for hire—arranging, programming and playing music for bands.

He used to be painfully shy before it set in. Music allowed him to emerge from his shell.

Between singing gigs, he took an another demanding part in Archie del Mundo's "Ang Mister ni Mayor" where he plays a closeted politician.

Although the gay role requires him to engage in a steamy love scene with fellow hunk Johnson Tukalo, Morales insisted that this indie drama will push him to execute his acting muscles for redemption.

"I learned a lot from my scenes Mayla Morales and Angie Ferro," he related. "They are theater-trained actors and they generously shared acting techniques with me."

His reinvention as an actor entailed physical transformation as well. He trimmed down by going on a diet and working out regularly.

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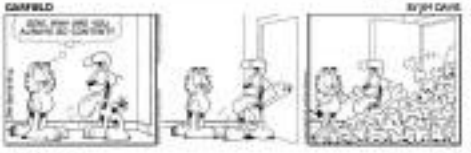
## Adultery a no-no to Lloydie

ONE OF MY few books of all time is "Advice to a Young Wife from an Old Mistress" by Mikhael Dwary. It basically says that... to be a good wife, you sometimes must know how to act like a mistress.

The unspoken dynamics and emotional vagueries of a three-way love affair is what Joel Cinense's "The Mistress" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. UPIN BY JES ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARROCK

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOHNGALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY FRANK ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

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DILBERT BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

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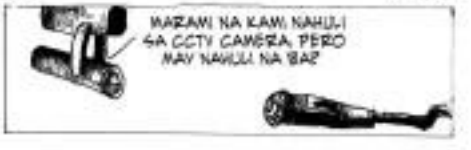


## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

**THE RAM (March 21 to April 19)** A row at first might make you glad for some close, loyal friendship. Romantic misfortunes may be followed by a period of good fortune in public, career or events. Be ready to go with the flow and have fun!

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** You might feel something mysterious might take place in your life. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun! Romance will be in the air and you will meet someone special. Career matters are going well. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun!

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You might feel something mysterious might take place in your life. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun! Romance will be in the air and you will meet someone special. Career matters are going well. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun!

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You might feel something mysterious might take place in your life. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun! Romance will be in the air and you will meet someone special. Career matters are going well. Don't be afraid to go with the flow and have fun!

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** You will be faced with many challenges, and learning people! Seek out friendships, professional organizations, social activities, or networking events.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** You feel restless today. You have the feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. (It's because you're the last one, here.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** A friend might surprise you with a gift. Or perhaps you will make someone else a very generous gift. Social gatherings or big conferences will be of personal worship.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** You might develop a crush on your boss today or someone in a position of authority. Or perhaps someone has something to reveal yourself in your right everything!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Routine operations. You'll have a hard night but it pays big today. (We're chasing you.) Your relationship, spiritual, personal pursuits and/or philosophy is lucky!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** Unexpected gifts and positive insight arrive over easy today (unexpected gifts and positive insight arrive over easy today (unexpected gifts and positive). You're also surprised to learn your positive news.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** A close friend or your spouse might be scrambling that you're not. You're lucky. A close relative or family member is fascinating or true.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** Something will change your relationship in an exciting, unexpected manner. You will receive an unexpected announcement and make you sit up and pay attention.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Ware

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Answers to previous puzzle

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Musical instruments
6 Yoke
10 Lick
11 Lift intelligence
12 Concerning the notes
13 Short performer
14 Carmen's companion
15 Law enforcers
16 Dentist's tool
17 Dentist's drills
18 Wood with knots in it
20 Lenses
24 Tabloids
25 Mr. Dean's partner in hits
26 Dentist's tool
27 Preferred lines
28 Shore
29 Computer Frequency Modulation
31 Fraction synonym
32 Future prediction
33 Dentist's tool
34 Mischievous sprite
35 Paradise
37 Lethal weapon
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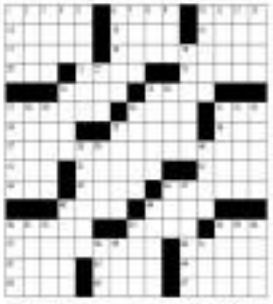
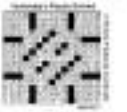


Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



# Cute Hunk...

from page F1

finally popped the question, LF finally turned him down, claiming she would rather not risk their friendship.

Maybe LF was just being polite. Or may LF knew NH was involved with Guy Sembrano Flamiano.

### Stings celeb

Guy Celebrity was excited to judge a male beauty pageant in a faraway town. Just as we thought it was Bonnie Cool, Bonnie who thought he could get ahead in the game, win big and/or at least bring home extra cash by endorsing GC.

HC was disappointed to never enter the contest. GC says he only did so because the contest's organizer was a friend. Not only did he lose in the contest, GC says he only got a thousand bucks for his troubles.

Nosy Inside would've... what's been marked "stingy" in the entrance contest... or not.

### Karmic cut

Remember Marcus Perdiamore who landed a guest role on Show Biz Showplace? Well, VP recently got a major scrutinization.

Most of VP's scenes in a huge project landed on the cutting room floor. It was unclear wanna live high flying VP, who tried to bully BN on the set. Perhaps VP will be less pompous next time.

### Booked solid

In the middle of an out-of-town shoot, Talented Actor was in a hurry to return home. Bustling Staffer, however, wouldn't let go of TA, who still had a few scenes to be shot.

TA insisted on leaving, revealing that he had a "booking" waiting for him in the city. Incensed BS was shocked, so TA had to explain that he had a date with a Rich Guy who would pay him P5,000 for a night of pleasure.

KARINCA King

He had to shell out the moolah so that TA would stay on the set and reschedule his date with RG.

Still about doubling your income in a jiffy.

### Top of the talk show

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Alma Moreno on her backing out as a respected candidate: "Sabi nila, tama na, nagsa-worry kayo [...] ay ngo-tumula ka ng tapos ganun, hahabulin ka naman... Isang maswerteng... na, dun ka na lang sa mga ganap." (If only the interview weren't followed by a panting bit on how evil ones mock.)
- Sarah Lahbati, asked if she's willing to go daring for her show: "I'm very open-minded. I'm willing to do whatever para pumasok ang role ko. Kung gusto ng publikong ko ng justice ang role ko." (Define "daring" and "whatever.")
- Sarah on her recent trip to Boracay with Richard Gutierrez: "Wag ibaw lang kami sa'l [ I was with my mom, my nephew, 10 yrs. old, my sister, Ate Ruffa's twins, my sister-in-law, my brother-in-law, my assistant." (Nosy: what would happen if we stopped talking about them altogether?)
- Producer Lizza Diño's sister-in-law Marlene: "Malapit na malapit na, naglalapit na kami ng Diyos, hanggang sa talagang si mommy ko na mag-dasal ng bahay." (Beaming was evidenced to have bulged on us inside here.)

Interlok

# Adultery...

from page F1

both involved with someone else in real life, their onscreen romp-up is still going strong.

They will also star in ABS-CBN's coming telenovela, "A Beautiful Affair."

The feelings expressed in such a fair manner may be wrong, but it's real nonetheless. Any woman would not mind risking it all just to be Lizelle's mistress. Many dream of becoming her wife.

The actor shares his thoughts with us in his (rare) view:

**What can a mistress do that a wife can't?**

JLC: I think it's subjective to one's needs or motivation on why a mistress wants to allure her self to do such a difficult situation. But mistresses tend to try harder since they are competing with the wife to satisfy the needs and desires of their partners.

**What are your thoughts about mistresses?**

JLC: Sometimes they are also victims of their own passion, ambition and love. But even love and power justify a wrong. Any male (or female) who is wrong is wrong.

**What is the secret of your love team with Bea that makes it click even if you're not a couple in real life?**

JLC: Our fandom has a strong and deep foundation. It's built on a long-time partnership that has gone through the most defining moments, one ups and downs in the biz. It's also built on sincerity and honesty to the fans. The success we have as a team is synonymous with the success we have individually. I feel unequivocally blessed to be given the trust and opportunity by ABS-CBN to be part of some of the most memorable films of the last decade.

**Would you consider having a mistress?**

JLC: I don't see any scene in that. It's something I would never, or will never, want to resort to. What's the point of momentary pleasure which may lead to a lifetime of suffering eventually?

I congratulate Brilliante Mendoza via text for the well-deserved occasion that his film, "Thy Womb," bagged at the Venice film fest. Brilliante is truly in every masterpiece he makes.

I also asked him a few questions:

**You've won countless awards. Does it feel any different now that you've won in Venice?**

BM: I just really feel grateful for the warm reception given to our film. The award is more of an unexpected bonus.

**What kind of edge did "Thy Womb" have over the other entries?**

BM: The honesty of the film overall and how the four (Nora Aunor) was able to convey her character's humanity.

**What was the hardest part of shooting the film?**

BM: Logistics.

**What can audiences learn from "Thy Womb"?**

BM: They will see the other side of Mindanao that is not commonly known.

**What's your fave film in the Venice fest?**

BM: "Pieta" by Kim Ki-duk.

**What's your next film?**

BM: I'm working on "Lapu," a horror film with Dennis Trillo and Shryll Soriano.



BRILLIANTE Mendoza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## Opening Today

### Graceland

Directed by Ben Morales; stars Arnold Reyno, Lenn Dilport, Meggie Colmenares, Flo Guevarra, Eddie de la Paz, Marife Necesito

A chauffeur's daughter, mistaken as the child of a corrupt politico, is kidnapped, leading to a dangerous cat-and-mouse game. This indie drama debuted at the Tribeca fest in New York this year. Indieverse rates it up as "just morning." Twitch asserts: It's "twisted enough to keep even the most seasoned thriller aficionado second guessing up to the end." It will be shown exclusively at Robinsons Galleria, nightly at 6 and 8 p.m.

### Ang Nawawala

Directed by Marje Asturias; stars Dennis Trillo, Kristoffer Dobooson, Ruben Zubiaga, Bella Shmo, Rodney Santeraille, Akihiro Sakuta

Young man decides to stop talking, but his quiet world is rocked by an unconventional girl. Inq.mes describes it as a "brightly hued, happy pill with a streak of sadness." Thing ng Pinoy Indie Jamel Sangcaya and Jomes Beltran commends "the masterful utilization ... of montage and silence (which) ... makes for a well-balanced eye candy." Kintaro's Oishi L. Cruz states: It "packs a pretty intense emotional wallop."

### The Mistress

Directed by Olivia M. Lamasan; stars Bea Alonzo, John Lloyd Cruz, Hilda Koronel, Ronaldo Valdez, Anita Linda, Carmi Martin, E Rosales

Young woman falls in love w/ separated man, but she is the kept woman of a much older benefactor. Daudnation chronicler is the pair's "most mature" and "controversial" project. They relate that they've both grown up as actors after a decade of doing romantic-comedies. "It's both exciting and challenging." Cruz says of his reunion film with Alonzo. "We always have to be on your toes acting with Lloyd," Alonzo insists.

### Resident Evil: Retribution

Directed by Paul WS Anderson; stars Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez, Colin Salmon, Kevin Durand, Sienna Guillory

Humanity's only hope scurvives the mystery of last year and the epidemic that has turned people into zombies.

ARNOLD Reyes and Dimples Pal in "Graceland"

ANDREA Brazeburgh and James D'Arcy in "W.E."

Cinemaroundmindo.com points out: "While films to gang gauze-based movies look bloody, intense," Latinopost remarks that Dan mediaStream. "The first to be released in 3-D ... promises to be ... the most action-packed." Screenrant.com notes: "There's always fun to be had watching Jovovich pull off crazy stunts ... in slow motion."

### W.E.

Directed by Madonna; stars Abbie Cornish, Andrea Riseborough, Oscar Isaac, James Fox, James D'Arcy, David Harbour, Richard Coyle

New Yorker becomes obsessed with the American divorcee who inspires a king to abdicate. Washington Post's Ann Hornaday thinks it's "less about people than the fetishistic obsession with style." Chicago Sun-Times' Roger Ebert calls it "elegant, ambitious and relentlessly monotonous." Film Journal's David Noh remarks: "Madonna has fashioned quite an extraordinarily fancy bauble." Trailer(s) in dyda cinemas.

ANNICKA Dolonio and Dominic Roco in "Ang Huwarada"

# Cute Hunk raring to come out

By the Entertainment Staff

THE BEEZ is getting kinder: Cute Actor is coming to change out of the closet.

GA could no longer hide his true feelings at one point, but his parents and handlers thumbed down his plans, make a clean breast of it all. His home studio cited to distract GA by showering him with all sorts of projects on the big and small screens.

Still, GA couldn't keep his hands off his hunky boyfriends. He was caught fooling around with Gorgeous Model in a gym. It was a workout of the third kind. They were caught in a wet lip lock.

### Jilted hunk

The current toast of townlovers, Handsome Hunk, looks like he can have any woman he fancies. Female and gay fans alike lick their guts out every time HHAppears in mall shows here, there and everywhere. In real life, he doesn't have much luck in the

PAGLEENTUNA

romance department.

HH had been wooing Lovely Friend for quite a while. Guy had become super close. HH would often confide in LF whenever he was troubled. But when HH

Gilat Alejo

SARAH Lahbati

"RARE MAGNIFICENCE"
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
The PHANTOM of the OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
THIS WEEK'S AVAILABILITY
16 MORE SHOWS ON SALE! MUST CLOSE OCTOBER 14
CCP MAIN THEATER
LIMITED STUDENT SEATS & FAMILY PACKS AVAILABLE

GET READY TO FALL MADLY, DEEPLY AND LEGALLY IN LOVE
AGA Muhlach REGINE Velasquez
of All The Things
a film by Bb. JOYCE BERNAL
OPENS IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 26

Inquirer Wednesday NATIONAL
# CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds
RATES
DEADLINES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Quezon City

## INVITATION TO BID

**Supply and Delivery of Various Software and Multi-Media Equipment**
**(NIA-PIS-EE-006-11-IC)**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan to payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of Various Software and Multi-Media Equipment. (NIA-PIS-EE-006-11-IC)**

2. The **National Irrigation Administration** now invites bids for **Supply and Delivery of Various Software and Multi-Media Equipment.** Delivery of the Goods is required **seventy five (75) calendar days** from receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within three **(3) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, with some amendments, as stated in these Bidding Documents and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the applicable procurement guidelines of the **World Bank.** The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The total Estimated Project Cost (EPC) is **Sixteen Million Five Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Pesos (₱16,535,100.00)** for the following items:

| Item No. | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| 1 | 01 unit Multi-Media Projector |
| 2 | 01 unit Video Camera |
| 3 | 01 unit Mini-HD Camera |
| 4 | 01 unit LCD TV |
| 5 | 01 unit Digital Camera |
| 6 | 01 unit Wireless Microphone and Receiver |
| 7 | 01 unit Powerful Office Performance Laptop Edition (For Producer) |
| 8 | 01 unit Digital Video Recorder |
| 9 | 1 unit Professional Camcorder |
| 10 | 1 unit Multi-Timeline Edit Design Software Laptop Version (For Producer) |
| 11 | 1 unit Microsoft Visual Basic Latest Version (For Producer) |
| 12 | 1 unit Microsoft Visual Studio Latest Edition (For Producer) |

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BAC-IC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Section, Procurement and Property Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg. A, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during **office hours 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on **September 19, 2012 to October 11, 2012** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00).** For interested bidders who will participate only in any combination or all of Item Nos. 7 to 12 and will not part of Item Nos. 1 to 6, bidding documents are free of charge. Otherwise, they shall pay the foregoing amount.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the NIA website. **http://www.nia.gov.ph;** provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The National Irrigation Administration will host a pre-bid Conference on **September 17, 2012, 10:00 AM** at Classroom **A, 3rd floor, IEC Bldg, NIA Complex, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City** which shall be open to all interested parties.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 AM, October 17, 2012.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount as follows:

**ITEM No. Cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ₱1,700.00 |
| 2 | ₱6,700.00 |
| 3 | ₱5,700.00 |
| 4 | ₱2,000.00 |
| 5 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 6 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 7 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 8 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 9 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 10 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 11 | ₱1,000.00 |
| 12 | ₱1,000.00 |

Bid opening shall be on **9:00 AM, October 17, 2012 at Classroom A, 3rd Floor, IEC Bldg. NIA Complex, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who may choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bidders shall submit that all items to be delivered are new, unused and free from any defects.

9. The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

(s) Fe Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee B
Office of the Legal Services
Ground Floor NIA Bldg. B
NIA Complex, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 926-3709 / 951-0868 loc. 161

(Sgd.) GENEROSO M. ORDAS
Chairman, BAC-IC

(TFN - Sept. 12, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 567 Maligaya St.,
Malate, Manila

## NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

| Name and Address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/ Nationality | Position |
|---|---|---|
| **WOODWYKER INC.**<br>Unit 12A Oxford Townhouse II,<br>Dualan Ave., San Miguel, Mntg City | Sivanjalan Alex<br>Kovuth | Operations Manager |
| **TAIWAN ALLTECH CONSTRUCTION (PHIL.), INC.**<br>Oxford Condominium I-G, Suite 01,<br>Rm. 1208, 224 N.S. Bike Costa St.,<br>Salcedo Village, Makati City | Wagasaki Yamaguchi<br>Japanese | President |
| **TAIWAN ALLTECH CONSTRUCTION (PHIL.), INC.**<br>Oxford Condominium I-G, Suite01 to<br>Rm. 1208, 224 N.S. Bike Costa St.,<br>Salcedo Village, Makati City | Yoshiya Oyama<br>Japanese | Executive Vice President |
| **VERIDAS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**<br>Unit 1608 Oxford Homes Tower,<br>99 V.A. Rufino cor. Valero St.,<br>Makati City | Mathew Lui<br>Chinese | Design Manager<br>Interior Design<br>(Installer) |
| **WEALTH ACCESS INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED**<br>2/F Subangdaku Tower, 505 Mariq<br>cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City | Lui Fang<br>Chinese | Planning Specialist, IT / Customer Support Officer |
| **YKK (U.P. PRODUCTS (PHILIPPINES) MANUFACTURING, INC.)**<br>21/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center,<br>6766 Ayala Ave. cor.<br>Paseo de Roxas, Makati City | Wang, I Wu<br>(a.k.a. Henry Wu)<br>Taiwanese | Manager<br>Production |
| **WOODWYKER INC.**<br>Unit 12A Oxford Townhouse II,<br>Dualan Ave., San Miguel, Mntg City | Fung Yuen<br>Kovuth | Marketing Manager |
| **MULLTRY SOLUTIONS INC.**<br>No. 137 Colorado St.,<br>Mandaluyong City | Chuck Hwan<br>Foo<br>Malaysian | General Manager |
| **KARU-KARU PROCESSING, INC.**<br>127 Sto. Cristo Subd.,<br>El San Miguel Ave.,<br>Cubao Center, Pasay City | Truong Xuan<br>Bien<br>Korean | Chief Operating Officer |
| **TEAM LEASE PHILIPPINES SERVICES (1) INC (FORMERLY KNOWN AS TEAM LEASE SERVICES INC.)**<br>2nd Deck Penthouse, Solaris Bldg.,<br>107 Tordesillas cor. Legaspi Village,<br>Makati City | Mainly<br>Maria Ela<br>Boudreaglere<br>Belgian | Consultant |
| **HINDU JEARING CENTER INC.**<br>4/F Unit 2 Cityland 10<br>Condominium 10, 6815 Ayala Ave.,<br>Municipal Makati, Mandaluyong City | Kanjan Bak<br>Kovuth | Marketing Manager |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Shaofang Chai<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Zhengming Li<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Chenliang Chen<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Bole Li<br>Taiwanese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Jiaoxiao Zhang<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Xingxin Sun<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Huangliang<br>Huang<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **QUANU HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION**<br>6/F Orient, 6/F Ave.,<br>Diamond 11, Caloocan City | Huaba Jiang<br>Chinese | Service Supervisor |
| **QUANU HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION**<br>6/F Orient, 6/F Ave.,<br>Diamond 11, Caloocan City | Qiangbin Wu<br>Chinese | Sales Operation Supervisor |
| **SHRA NAAR DEN TRADING CORP.**<br>1 C Apalag St. Talipapa,<br>Novaliches, Quezon City | Narinder Pal<br>Singh<br>Indian | Sales Representative |
| **SHRA NAAR DEN TRADING CORP.**<br>68 Pedicano St. Project 6,<br>Quezon City | Parveen Kaur<br>Indian | Sales Representative |
| **ZTE (SUD) TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Huanbao Chen<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |

| Name and Address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/ Nationality | Position |
|---|---|---|
| **GOLDEN BAY RESTAURANTS AND MANAGEMENT, INC.**<br>Superblock A2, Lots 38A,<br>Phil Base Day Mecapagal Blvd.,<br>Pasay City | Qubang Wu<br>Chinese | Assistant Chef |
| **GOLDEN BAY RESTAURANTS AND MANAGEMENT, INC.**<br>Superblock A2, Lots 38A,<br>Phil Base Day Mecapagal Blvd.,<br>Pasay City | Chan Fok Hei<br>Singaporean | Executive Chef |
| **SUPERGLOBAL GLOBAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.**<br>12/F Philippine Corporate Center,<br>North Triangle Drive,<br>Diliman Quezon City, Taguig City | Wang An Gan<br>American | Vice President - Service Delivery |
| **HIGH QUALITY AND INTELLIGENCE ART SERVICES INC.**<br>Unit 2205 Antonio Vetthine Plaza,<br>Amapola St., Sinsinita,<br>San Juan City | Yi Sok Oh<br>Korean | Operations Manager |
| **CHINA BANK CAPITAL LIMITED**<br>11/F Phil.Am Tower,<br>8756 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Hong Mo Ko<br>Taiwanese | Information Technology Customer Service Officer |
| **CHINA BANK CAPITAL LIMITED**<br>11/F Phil.Am Tower,<br>8756 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Sungang Shi<br>Chinese | Chinese language Customer Service Officer |
| **AFTERIX**<br>**SHEIN LAUNDRY INC.**<br>LL 02 Orchard Parking Tow. Tower<br>6784 Ayala Ave.,<br>Bega. de Roxas, Makati City | Hachol Kwon<br>Korean | IT Technical Manager |
| **JUNAID HAYEZ PARTNERSHIP AAA (FAZIO - SHUNG)**<br>11/F Tower 1 The Enterprise Center,<br>6766 Ayala Ave. cor.<br>Paseo de Roxas, Makati City | Tin Ly Chan<br>Shuk Mung<br>British | Director |
| **JEJI ZHOU TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Yanqing Chen<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **ACCENTURE, INC.**<br>7/F Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City | Leah Langhorn<br>German | HR Integration Lead |
| **ARAMEX TECHNICAL SERVICES (MANPOWER CORP.)**<br>3/F BCC House, 5896 P. Burgos St.,<br>Bega. Makassar, Makati City | Lee Craig<br>Wheeler<br>Australian | HR Consultant |
| **SUNNY CHANG TRADING CORP.**<br>1440 Mangyan St., Pasay City | Victor Yabsat<br>Indian | Sales Representative |
| **KAJIMA PHILIPPINES INC.**<br>12/F 6784 Oxford Chartered Bldg.,<br>Ayala Ave., Makati City | Kawahiko<br>Hashidzume<br>Japanese | Senior Project Manager |
| **JEJI ZHOU TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**<br>16/F Tower II ROBC Plaza,<br>6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Shibang Zhong<br>Chinese | Customer Service Representative |
| **CHINA BANK CAPITAL LIMITED**<br>11/F Phil.Am Tower 6765,<br>Ayala Ave., Makati City | Anita Indrawati<br>Indonesian | Bilingual Indonesian Language Customer Service Officer |
| **CHINA BANK CAPITAL LIMITED**<br>11/F Phil.Am Tower 6765,<br>Ayala Ave., Makati City | Chaliam Lin<br>Chinese | Chinese language Customer Service Officer |
| **CHINA BANK CAPITAL LIMITED**<br>11/F Phil.Am Tower 6765,<br>Ayala Ave., Makati City | Gangjia Long<br>Chinese | Chinese language Customer Service Officer |
| **DISC SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**<br>Unit 1702 Rufino Corporate Tower,<br>2.ED Rufino Corporate Center,<br>Ortigas Business Park,<br>Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City | Matthias Hebolt<br>Chidodhorn<br>German | Sales & Marketing, Customer Relations, SEO, Selling & Liability Specialist |
| **SPECIALTIES, INCORPORATED**<br>No. 43 Central Ave.,<br>Brgy. Cubao, Quezon City | Sanatorio Sang<br>Korean | Administration Manager |
| **SPORTS BOOKS ONLINE INC.**<br>1107 Rufino Corporate Tower,<br>Eco Sol. 6A Road Ave.,<br>Makati City | Hollyna Long<br>Malaysian | Senior Website Language Customer Service Support Staff |

If you have any information regarding to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALANIS MACARAIG, CESO III
Regional Director

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
CONDO/TWNHSE
HOUSE AND LOT
COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
CONDO/TWNHSE
LOAN & MORTGAGE
TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE
CARS
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT
CAR LOAN
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
WANTED TO BUY
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FEMALE
IMMEDIATE HIRING
General Manager, Investigation Officer & Accounting Clerk
For Security Agency
Send Bio-Data to Cathy
09096501510
ROLEX
CALL POEA
BUY JEWELRY
DIAMOND GOLD ROLEX, ETC.
09172287704
8924886

Republic of the Philippines
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES**
Davao City

## INVITATION TO BID

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP), Obrero Campus, Davao City, through the approval of the Board of Regents has made available the sum from Fund 164 (Income) the amount of **FIVE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY (₱5,500,000.00) PESOS** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Procurement of Integrated Information System for the University.

Sealed bids/proposals from qualified, legal, and eligible contractors/suppliers are invited for the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Contract (Title) | **PROCUREMENT OF INTEGRATED INFORMATION SYSTEM** |
| Nature of Project | Procurement of Integrated Information System for the University |
| Location | USeP, Obrero Campus, Davao City |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | ₱5,500,000.00 |
| Source | Fund 164 (Income) |
| Delivery Date | Two (2) months after receipt of Notice to Proceed |
| Contract Duration | Two (2) years |

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

1. The Integrated Information System must comprise the following systems: Student Records Management Information System, Human Resource Management Information System, Payroll System, Library Management Information System, Financial Management Information System, Inventory Management Information System, Asset Management Information System, Property Office Management Information System.
2. The Integrated Information System must be able to run on a Local Area Network and Wide Area Network environment.
3. The Integrated Information System must be web-based.
4. A genuine client-server operating system (Windows Server 2008 or any Microsoft SQL Server 2012 or more) installed in the software package.
5. The programming language must be in Microsoft Visual Studio.
6. All reports must be in Crystal Report generated and it must not be embedded in the system to simply format and control the appearance of the data. Reports must be capable of being printed to the screen, MS Word, MS Excel, and Adobe pdf, and ASCII.
7. All necessary transactions, such as user/password/granting of access, must have user authentication in place at initialization.
8. The program software shall not be in a version from 2 years with or any technical support provided to ensure there is no technical downtime.
9. The vendor must be able to provide free technical support On-Call and On-Line 24/7 during and after the duration of the warranty period for the software and hardware components.
10. The vendor must be willing to transfer the system source codes when the company could no longer provide support.
11. Unlimited user for additional user requirements and specifications within the scope of this system and within the period of installation must be free of charge to the University.
12. Migration from USeP's existing database to the system's database shall be done by the vendor when requested at no cost to the University.
13. USeP has offered for sale to the public (including system integrators) Vendor must provide complete documentation on the system and system architecture, especially USeP-made modifications to the system programs.
14. The system shall be implemented in the 1st semester of SY 2012-2013 and must be fully implemented in all units/campuses/offices within a period not to exceed.
15. Complete training must be provided to all concerned users and system administrators shall be conducted by the vendor.
16. On the date of the opening of bids, the vendor must be ready to demonstrate the integrated information System with sample data, terms and reports.
17. The vendor must have a minimum of five (5) similar projects within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids which are being implemented and used by private/government institutions/offices with at least 10,000 employees.
18. The vendor should have three (3) installed sites and at least one (1) site in Mindanao.

Bids shall be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat on or before **10:00 A.M. of September 25, 2012.** Bidding shall be conducted on the same day at 10:30 A.M. in the conference room located by the BAC Secretariat at the 3rd floor, University Center Building, USeP, Obrero Campus, Davao City.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino nationals/citizens/entities, cooperatives, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The BAC Secretariat issued and keeps a complete set of Bidding Documents in connection therewith. Upon presentation of Letter of Intent and valid proof of it's authorization (eg. a Tax Clearance) PHP 5,000.00 Pesos is the non-refundable fee.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| Sept. 4, 2012 | Pre-procurement Conference |
| Sept. 10-18, 2012 | Posting of Invitation to Bid and Bidding Documents in the USeP Website and PhilGEPS Website, and conduct of Pre-Bid Conference |
| Sept. 19, 2012 | Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Bids |
| Sept. 19-24, 2012 | Bid Evaluation |
| Sept. 25, 2012 | Opening of Bids, Post-Qualification, Declaration of Winning Bidder |
| Sept. 26, 2012 | Issuance of Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Contract Signing |
| Sept. 26-28, 2012 | Posting of Notice of Award in the USeP Website and PhilGEPS Website |

Bids shall be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat on or before **10:00 A.M. of September 25, 2012.** Bidding shall be conducted on the same day at 10:30 A.M. in the conference room located by the BAC Secretariat at the 3rd floor, University Center Building, USeP, Obrero Campus, Davao City.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino nationals/citizens/entities, cooperatives, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The University of the Southeastern Philippines (USeP) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to waive any minor defect or irregularity in any bid, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid will be most advantageous to the University and will be governmental.

For further information, please call or visit:

Dr. **LAWRENCE F. MINA** (Ph.D., MPA, MBA, CESO III)
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Tel. No. (082) 291-1150 loc. 109

Engr. **ANNABELLE C. MINA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NOTED:
Engr. **CRISPIN M. A. ALARIN**
Chancellor

Posted on the USeP Website at www.usep.edu
Posted on the PhilGEPS Website at www.philgeps.gov.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
# CLASSIFIEDS

## Pag-IBIG FUND
Home Development Mutual Fund

### INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF APPRAISAL COMPANIES

We are looking for Appraisal Companies with personnel performing the appraisal possessing requisite education, expertise, competence, and reasonable to assist in rendering valuation of properties classified under NPARF, Bank and Other Properties Acquired (BOPA) and all other related accounts acceptable to both parties.

The need for accreditation is to establish a roster of service providers that can be tapped by the Fund to fast track rendering of appraisal services for various groups in the housing operations at cheaper cost and in most efficient manner.

Accreditation shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

**I. DURATION**

The agreement shall commence upon signing between Parties and shall have a term of twelve (12) months.

**II. SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The services shall include the following scope of works and requirements:

1. Verify and report the following: (a) exact location of the property through physical inspection; (b) existence and availability of basic service utilities such as water, electricity, transportation, road networks, etc.; (c) presence of road or legal right of way; and (d) severe flooding caused by rainfall and other causes either natural or man made.
2. Obtain the appraised value of the property through the eBAM.
3. Submit the appraisal report in the form that shall be prescribed by the Fund.

**III. QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS**

1. Members of the top management involved in the appraisal work must have at least five (5) years of experience as managers (or its equivalent rank) or higher position in the appraisal business.
2. The Manager in charge of the appraisal service and the signatory to the appraisal report must have at least ten (10) years of experience in the appraisal business.
3. Staff doing the appraisal work must have at least four (4) years experience in appraisal business and with at least 40 hours of training work within the past three (3) years.
4. Absence of any pending criminal or civil actions against, or any bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings involving any directors, executive officers or the company.
5. The company must be in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' list of acceptable appraisal companies, to date with).
6. The company must have at least orientation appraisal of residential lots, residential house and lot, condominium units and/or medium to high rise buildings within the past five (5) years.
7. The company rendered satisfactory appraisal services to clients, preferably to banking institutions within the past five (5) years.
8. The key officers or its appraisers are registered members in good standing from the CET recognized appraisal associations, namely, Institute of PRE Real Estate Appraisers (IPREA) or the PRE Association of Realty Appraisers (PAREA).
9. The company must have the audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for the preceding two (2) calendar years from submission of proposal.
10. In terms of financial soundness of the firm, its resources are with net worth.
11. The company and/or its employees are registered members of Pag-IBIG Fund.
12. The company has no pending or previous adversarial claim against HDMF before any judicial or quasi-judicial body or any other tribunal or agency.

For interested parties, please submit your application and documents for accreditation to Engr. Juanito V. Ejo, Vice President, Wholesale Lending Group, with office at the 11th Floor, PAG-IBIG Business Solutions Bldg., 499 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Application form and checklist of requirements may be accessed at the Pag-IBIG Website: www.pagibigfund.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ACHMAD REZALEE P. IMAM**
CEO-Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Home Lending Operations Cluster

# Fujifilm invests 673.3 million pesos in PH

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Lilian B. de Lima announced the registration with PEZA of Fujifilm Optics (Philippines), Inc., a subsidiary of Fujifilm Japan which will manufacture high-performance lenses for digital cameras, projectors & CCTV (surveillance) cameras.

This project will be located in the Canlubang Industrial Park I, a PEZA economic zone in Laguna. Construction of the factory is in October 2012 and start of Commercial Operations is scheduled in June 2013.

The new factory will offer an integrated production process from the molding, coating and other processing processes to the assembling of optical lenses. Mass production equipments such as the "lens polishing machine" which polishes the surface of glass lenses with high precision at nano levels, and the "automatic aspherical lens machine" which forms multilayer thin films for antireflection will be introduced for the production of high performance lenses of digital cameras, projectors and CCTV (surveillance) cameras.

With this project costing PhP 673.3 Million, Fujifilm intends to increase the production to 16 million lenses a year by FY 2015, so as to respond to the growing demand for optical lenses.

DG de Lima cited the recent investment by Canon Business Machines (Phils.) of Php1.5 Billion for the production of laser beam printers.

Other notable recent investments by Japanese firms include Philippine Manufacturing Co. of Mitutoyo that invested close to PhP5 billion to manufacture electronics products; Brother Industries (Phils.) aims to manufacture printers and Furukawa Automotive Systems (Jets Philippines) investing PhP1.3 Billion for the production of automotive products.

Besides TRAMO® Group, one of the biggest top companies in the industry registered with PEZA and invested PhP 520-Million. It is expected to have some of its suppliers to also locate in the PEZA zones.

Also, American companies Molex Integrated Products Philippines, Inc. a manufacturer of electronics with a PhP 1.147 million investment and Amkor Electronics (Philippines) Corporation which will invest more than PhP 650-Million to manufacture audio devices for hearing aids and mobile/consumer electronics. Both American companies have located in PEZA economic zones.

De Lima said the Philippines is the avowed interest of manufacturing companies in the Philippines, particularly in the PEZA zones. Their presence will have a big impact in generating jobs. These big companies will attract their many suppliers to also locate in the Philippines to supply their parts and materials. PEZA also encourages them to source from local suppliers to reduce costs.

Expected direct employments from these above mentioned companies is easily over 10,000.

She is very optimistic that this year will be a banner year and PEZA targets an increase of 12% for investments, 12% for exports and 12% employments.

**RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**
Iba, Zambales

## INVITATION TO BID

The Ramon Magsaysay Technological University, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered agency/agencies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | : Completion of Chemistry Ibo Campus |
| Location | : RMTU Iba Campus, Iba, Zambales |
| Brief Description | : Materials and Labor Cost |
| Approved Budget for the Contract | : PT 3,000,000.00 (Inclusive of 1VAT) CHED Fund |

Prospective Bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment owned, leased or under purchase available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part b) Bids.

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | September 11 - October 25, 2012 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | Oct. 16, 2012 |
| 3. Deadline of receipt of LOI for prospective bidders | October 19, 2012 |
| 4. Receipt of Bids | October 25, 2012 @ 11:00 A.M. |
| 5. Opening of Bids | October 25, 2012 @ 2:00 P.M. |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Seven Thousand Pesos (₱7,000.00), to the RMTU Cashier, Iba Campus, Iba, Zambales.

The RMTU reserves no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. Moreover, the RMTU reserves the rights to reject any or all bids/proposals at any time prior to contract award, waive any technicality or Defect in requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive to requirements and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **FREDY A. ANTONIO**
RMTU BAC Chairman

**More Classifieds on pages...**

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## 150 CUSTOMER RELATION OFFICERS

**Qualifications:** Age between 21 to 30 yrs. old, good in English communication & experience in Sales and Marketing preferred, able to go in & out Malaysia. Newly graduates are welcome to apply.

**Benefits:** Free bus, daily accommodation, transport, plane fare and overtime & bonus. Training & career development opportunities for those selected applicants.

Employer's representative (HR Director) will conduct interviews from OCTOBER 6-15, 2012.

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**QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**
Quezon, Bicol Region

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Quezon I Electric Cooperative Inc. (QUEZON I) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all duly licensed and interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

LOT I: Supply, Delivery and Installation of Materials for the Construction of 69 KV T/L, 69/13.2 KV Substation and Distribution Lines in Sto. Cristo, Sto. Nino and Sta. Monica, all in the Municipality of Quezon

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those contractors who pass the eligibility check will be allowed to bid. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo post-qualification steps in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the requirements and conditions of the Project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined to have passed the post-qualification process.

The activities of BAC are listed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Advertisement | September 12 & 19, 2012 |
| Issuance of Bid Documents | September 24 & 25, 2012 |
| Pre-bid Conference | September 26, 2012 (9:00 a.m.) |
| Opening of Bids | October 5, 2012 (9:00 a.m.) |
| Post Qualification | October 5, 2012 |
| Notice of Award | Within 7 calendar days from the date of confirmation of BAC |
| Contract Preparation and Signing | Within 10 calendar days after the receipt of Notice of Award |
| Notice to Proceed | Within 15 calendar days after Contract Signing |

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC Secretariat. Bidding Documents may be purchased on September 24 and 25, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security in cash or manager's check equivalent to 2% of the Approved Budget for the Contract in the form of Bid Bond, which must be valid for at least 90 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Quezon I Electric Cooperative Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason, to waive any minor defects or irregularities and to accept such bid as it may be considered most advantageous to the Electric Cooperative.

(Sgd.) ENGR. SEBASTIAN L. ARANDELA
BAC Chairman

Attested by:
Engr. ERNESTO C. DELLO
QI Electric Manager

Date: September 12, 2012

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  (Will consult the CELTA)
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
**Securities and Exchange Commission**
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 7
SERIES OF 2012

TO: ALL CONCERNED CORPORATIONS

SUBJECT: 2012 SCHEDULE OF FILING OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

To maintain an organized and orderly filing of annual financial statements (AFS), the Commission, pursuant to its authority under the Corporation Code and Securities Regulation Code, adopts the following schedule for the filing of the AFS of companies, whose fiscal year ends on December 31, 2012:

1. All corporations, including branch offices, representative offices, regional headquarters and regional operating headquarters of foreign corporations, that file their AFS at the Commission's Head Office in Mandaluyong City, Davao, Cebu, Iloilo and Regular Extension Offices shall, depending on the last numerical digit of their SEC registration or license number, be governed by the following schedule in the filing period for 2012:

| | |
|---|---|
| April 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 | "1", "2" |
| April 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 | "3", "4" |
| April 29, 30, May 2 and 3 | "5", "6", "7" |
| May 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 | "8", "9" |
| May 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 | "0", "X" |

2. The above filing schedule shall not apply to the following corporations:
   (a) Those whose fiscal year ends on a date other than December 31, 2012. These entities shall file their AFS within 120 calendar days from the end of their fiscal year;
   (b) Those whose securities are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. These entities shall continue to observe the due date of filing of their year end AFS as attachments to their Annual Reports (SEC Form 17-A), in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Securities Regulation Code;
   (c) Those whose AFS are being audited by the Commission on Audit (COA), provided that the following documents are attached to their AFS:
      (i) An affidavit signed by the President and Treasurer (or Chief Financial Officer), where applicable, attesting to the fact that the company timely provided COA with the financial statements and supporting documents and that the audit of COA has just been concluded; and
      (ii) A letter from COA confirming the information provided in the above affidavit.
3. Prior to April 15, 2013, all corporations may file their AFS regardless of the last numerical digit of their registration or license number.
4. Late filings shall be accepted starting May 20, 2013 and shall be subject to the prescribed penalties which shall be computed from the date of the last day of filing as provided stated in paragraph 1.
5. Any filing of AFS before or after the scheduled dates shall not be accepted unless covered by paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above.
6. The AFS, other than the consolidated financial statements, shall have the stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its authorized banks, unless the BIR allows an alternative proof or submission to its authorized banks (e.g. bank eSafe).
7. The basic components as prescribed under SRC Rule 68, as amended, shall be presented for pre-screening. Failure to comply with any of the formal requirements under said Rule including the prescribed qualifications for independent auditors shall be considered a sufficient ground for the denial of the receipt of the financial statements. The acceptance and receipt by the Commission of the financial statements shall be without prejudice to the fines that may be imposed for any material deficiency or misstatement that may be found upon evaluation of the specific contents thereof.

All other circulars, memoranda and implementing rules and regulations that may be inconsistent with the foregoing provisions shall be deemed modified or amended accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall be published in two newspapers of general circulation.

7th Day of September 2012 in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

For the Commission:

(Sgd.) TERESITA J. HERBOSA
Chairperson

SEC September 12, 2012

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**
Regional Office No. IVA
3rd Andenson Bldg. V. Luna, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. (049) 541-0102
Domestic Line No. 2400

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

| | Name and Address of Company/ Employer | Name and Citizenship of Foreign National | Position and Brief Description of Functions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | [illegible] (Domestic Line) | Mr. Engr. Bienvenido [illegible] | Consultant/ Manager |
| 2. | [illegible] (Domestic Line) | Mr. Jung-ook Choe [illegible] | Quality Inspector [illegible] |
| 3. | [illegible] (Domestic Line) | Mr. Kuan Hsiang [illegible] | Engineer and Assistant |
| 4. | [illegible] (Domestic Line) | Mr. Kuan Hsiang [illegible] | Engineer and Assistant |
| 5. | [illegible] (Domestic Line) | Mr. Wu Ching-feng [illegible] | Project Manager |

If you have any information relative to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX L. AVILA
OIC-Regional Director

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# OBITUARIES

## In Loving Memory
## On the 1st Anniversary of

### *Jacqueline Michelle M. Relucio*

**April 4, 1984 – September 12, 2011**

**Her loving PARENTS Danny and Rolla SON: Bailey BROTHERS: Danny & James SISTER: Margaux request relatives, friends, and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.**

**There will be a mass & a simple get together on September 12, 2012 , Wednesday 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel of the Divine Word, Christ the King Church, E. Rodriguez Quezon City**

**The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for her during the morning & evening on September 12 at the following:**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Our Lady of Good Voyage | Antipolo City | 8:00p.m. | Iglesia Ni Cristo | 7:30a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Christ The King | E. Rodriguez - Cubao | 8:00a.m. & 6:00p.m. | Immaculate Conception Parish | Pasig City | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Immaculate Conception | Lumber St. - Cubao | 7:00a.m. & 6:00p.m. | Shrine of St. Anne | Tagaig | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Sacred Heart of Jesus | Kamuning | 7:00a.m. & 6:00p.m. | St. Martha San Roque Parish | Pateros | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Sta. Clara Monastery | Katipunan | 8:00a.m. | Santuario de San Antonio | Forbes Park, Makati | 7:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel | New Manila | 7:00a.m. & 6:00p.m. | Nuestra Senora de Gracia | Guadalupe | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Christ The King | Pasig | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. | St. Jude | Mandaluyong | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Santuario de San Jose | Greenhills | 7:45a.m. & 7:00p.m. | San Beda Colonnade | Manila | 6:30a.m. |
| St. Francis of Assisi | Mandaluyong | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. | Quiapo Church | Manila | 7:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Mary the Queen Parish | Greenhills | 8:00a.m. & 6:00p.m. | St. Michael the Archangel | San Miguel, Manila | 7:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| EDSA Shrine | EDSA - CRITERION | 8:30a.m. & 5:30p.m. | Shrine of Jesus | Mile Peasy | 6:00a.m. & 5:00p.m. |
| Chapel of the Holy Eucharist | Magsaysay | 12:10m. & 5:00p.m. | St. Therese Assigned Mod | Villamor, Pasay City | 6:30a.m. & 5:00p.m. |

REVOLUTIONIZING PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

# 49TH PMAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Waterfront Hotel - Lahug, Cebu City / September 12 to 14, 2012

## MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the People Management Association of the Philippines, as you hold your 49th Annual Conference. We in government affirm the role of managers in ensuring the personnel and professional development of our human workforce. Investing their well-being and development is essential to the success of any organization. That we welcome this conference with the aim of improving your practice, to support your goal to modernize people management - including the culture of leadership, the way we lead and our workforce. May this conference contribute to the advancement of human resource management, a field central to our collective quest of creating the best government, but as indeed the calculus of integrity, passion and excellence. But we gave to do might and well here. Let us stay united in the cause of revolutionize, towards establishing a future of stability and prosperity.

BENIGNO AQUINO, III
President
Republic of the Philippines

On behalf of the province of Cebu, I warmly greet the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) upon its annual conference on September 12-14, 2012. The People Management Association of the Philippines has commendably remained steadfast in its commitment to achieve the competencies of our highly educated workforce through numerous career development and training programs and conferences. Your theme, "Revolutionizing People Management: Great Minds, Bold Changes, Unparalleled Results," clearly articulates your commitment to transform the challenge of leadership transformation to address excellence in our highly competitive business environment. The conference of your organization is quite distinguished as a collaborative effort and dedication to serve the community. I wish you success in this and your future undertakings. Mabuhi!

GWENDOLYN V. GARCIA
Governor
Province of Cebu

Welcome addresses to the 49th PMAP Annual Conference with the theme "Revolutionizing People Management: Great Minds, Bold Changes, Unparalleled Results." This year's conference is an appropriate avenue to do just that. Last year, we were given to us Revolutionizing People Management this year. Last year, we realized that we are already living in a radically different world that we've been managing the same way for the past several years. This year, let us commit to concrete steps that can be taken to adapt the way we are managing to the demands of our emerging business environment. Otherwise, things takes place not because of a change of mind but a change in us. We do not because of a change in leader but a change in leadership. To revolutionize people management, we made sure that we invited speakers with revolutionary ideas and experiences. In fact, this year's conference boasts of several international speakers from various parts of the world. Let us not limit our invited guests to ourself or from each other. Let us also establish networks and professional relationships as we actively interact with our fellow professionals in the field of people management. Mamaning salamat sa imbitasyon!

ARTHUR GLENN AGUSTIN, FPM
President
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PMAP Conference

It just before the PMAP Annual Conference turns half a century old, we reflect on a revolution in the way we view and practice people management. We wanted to relate how times and business have changed, but the question ignites a revolution in our mind whose time has come. We believe that time is now. In our theme illustrates the year "Revolutionizing People Management" we acknowledge a three-pronged process of bringing together Great Minds to evoke Bold Changes and thereby produce Unparalleled Results. These elements are the necessary ingredients, the gears that turn on concerted effort to possible the revolutionary changes in our immediate and larger environment. The previous Annual Conferences signified a New Horizons and the need for HR's New Mandates in Asia Pacific, looking at the global competitive and economic settings, indeed, these forecasts are now our realities. And this Conference comes back with a new mind to unify to these ideas. We now further dare to work and push forward with our own revolution! On behalf of PMAP's 2012 Officers and Board of Directors and the 49th PMAP Annual Conference Directorate, I would like to thank the many people whose time and energies made this Conference possible. Most of all, I would like to thank you for answering our call and investing in this revolution. Together, we shall inspire not just a change of people, but a change in people. Mamaning salamat sa inabitasyon!

EVELYN GRACE C. SORONGON
Vice President
Chairperson, 49th PMAP Conference

# PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION or REVOLUTIONIZE PEOPLE?

**Last year, the Arab Spring produced a wave of revolutions. It toppled dictators and changed the leaders of nations. But does a change in leaders also produce a change in leadership?**

**Not necessarily.**

**As our own history has taught us, People Power Revolutions only change the leaders. But a change is leadership— the way our leaders lead— does not always follow. The past quarter-century has been a slow process of changing our culture of leadership, despite the many times we try to change our leaders.**

**Although these revolutions refer to the world of politics, the same slow process of changing the way we lead can also be seen in the world of businesses and organizations. This is the space that PMAP can fill this year.**

**The 2012 PMAP Annual Conference theme, "REVOLUTIONIZING PEOPLE MANAGEMENT," symbolizes the new mandate: Change the way we lead our people.**

**To revolutionize is to change the leadership, without having to resort to changing the leaders. The time has come to make a bold choice: Will we risk a revolution by our people? Or will we choose to revolutionize the way we lead our people?**

### 2012 PMAP Officers and Directors

***Executive Committee:*** President Arthur Luis P. Florentin, FPM; Vice President Evelyn Grace C. Sorongon; Secretary Michelle C. Garcia; and Treasurer Maria Lourdes L. Fernando, FPM. ***Board of Directors:*** Bonifacio C. Abdunador, Maria Agnes L. Alcaraz, Ana Maria S. Bongato, FPM; Renato P. Gadiuz; Teresita E. Dela Cruz, APPM; Louisa Mia Y. Echavarria; Jaime S. Estrella; Felix Don S. Lopez; Jovie Anne M. Monsalud; Arnold Q. Tamayao; and Atty. Eliseo M. Zuñiga, Jr. ***Ex-Officio:*** Immediate Past President Rohabel Caesar C. Asuiero and Council of Presidential Advisers Chair Lina A. Asistela, FPM.

### 49th PMAP Annual Conference Directorate

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Republic of the Philippines

# COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Intramuros, Manila

**GUIDELINES ON THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY AND NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL CANDIDATES OF REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES OR COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 13, 2013 AUTOMATED SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL, LOCAL AND ARMM REGIONAL ELECTIONS**

Promulgated: September 11, 2012

Chairman **Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr.**
Commissioner **Rene V. Sarmiento**
Commissioner **Lucenito N. Tagle**
Commissioner **Armando C. Velasco**
Commissioner **Elias R. Yusoph**
Commissioner **Christian Robert S. Lim**

## RESOLUTION NO. 9518

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate as it hereby promulgates, the following rules and guidelines on the filing of Certificates of Candidacy and Nomination and Acceptance of Official Candidates of registered political parties or coalition of political parties in connection with the May 13, 2013 Automated Synchronized National, Local and ARMM Regional Elections:

**SEC. 1. Certificate of Candidacy.** – No person shall be elected Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, Governor, City Mayor/Vice Mayor or Regional ARMM official unless he personally accomplishes a sworn Certificate of Candidacy in the time prescribed by the Commission (prescribed forms attached).

No person shall be eligible for more than one office to be filled in the same election. If he files a Certificate of Candidacy for more than one office, he shall not be eligible for any of them. However, before the expiration of the period for the filing of Certificate of Candidacy, he may file a declaration under oath, the office for which he desires to be eligible and cancel the Certificate of Candidacy for the other office or offices. Nothing in economic literature and scholarship bends the concept of the party that nominated him. If any, personally or by the duly-authorized representative, with the proper office in accordance with Sec. 3 hereof.

**SEC. 2. Contents of Certificate of Candidacy.** – The Certificate of Candidacy shall be under oath and shall state that the person filing it is announcing his candidacy for the office and constituency stated therein; his full name of the candidate, that he is eligible for said office; his age, gender, civil status, place and date of birth; his citizenship, whether Philippine or naturalized; the duly-registered political party or coalition of political parties to which he belongs, if any; the full residence address of the person, his legislative district, stating the exact address and the number of years he has been residing in the country and wherever applicable, the place where he intends to be elected; the barangay, city or municipality and province where he is a registered voter or will be a registered voter; his post office address for election purposes; his profession or occupation or employment from his or her government, resident or an immigrant to a foreign country, that he will file, with the office of the Commission, within thirty (30) days after election day, his full, true and itemized Statement of Contributions and Expenditures (SOCE) in connection with the election, that he will submit again and I attach the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto, that he will obey the laws, legal orders, decrees, resolutions, rules and regulations promulgated and issued by the duly-constituted authorities, that he assumes the foregoing obligations voluntarily without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that the facts stated in this certificate are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

Unless a candidate has officially changed his name through a court-approved proceeding, a candidate shall use in his Certificate of Candidacy the name by which he has been baptized or if he has not been baptized in any church or religion, the name registered in the Office of the Local Civil Registrar, or any other name under the provisions of existing law, or in the case of a Muslim, his Hadji name after performing the prescribed religious pilgrimage, Provided, that when there are two or more candidates for an office with the same name and surname, each candidate, upon the request of the Commission, shall use his paternal and maternal middle names, except his nickname or any name which may mislead or cause the name and surname stated in his Certificate of Candidacy when he was elected.

The person filing the Certificate of Candidacy shall indicate also nicknames or stage names by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality. Provided that no candidate shall use the nicknames, stage names or initials of another, in case of several nicknames or stage names, only the nicknames or stage name first written shall be considered.

Titles, such as DON, DATU, DIGTOR, DIMOG, or words of similar import shall not be allowed.

The person filing a Certificate of Candidacy shall also affix his latest photograph, passport size, in duplicate, in duplicate (preferably, the two shots and program of government not exceeding one hundred (100) words, if he so desires.

Documentary stamps in the amount of Fifteen Pesos (Php15.00) shall be attached to the Certificate of Candidacy.

For purposes of printing the candidate's name in the official ballots, the candidate's surname (in case of a female candidate, her married OR maiden name, whichever she prefers), first name, OR nickname, and the surname of the political party or coalition of political parties to which he belongs, shall not exceed thirty (30) characters. Thus, the person filing a Certificate of Candidacy shall write in the appropriate spaces provided for in Item No. 4 of the Certificate of Candidacy, the following data:

1. Last Name (in case of a female candidate, her married OR maiden name, whichever she prefers)
2. First Name Of Nickname
3. Political Party / Coalition of Political Parties Affiliation (Acronym only)

The Certificate of Candidacy shall be sworn before a Notary Public or any officer authorized to administer oath. **COMELEC officials are not authorized to administer oath.**

**SEC. 3. Where to file Certificate of Candidacy.** – Depending on the election positions, the Certificate of Candidacy shall be filed in FIVE (5) LEGIBLE COPIES with the offices of the Commission specified hereunder:

| ELECTIVE POSITIONS | WHERE TO FILE |
|---|---|
| President | Law Department |
| Members of the House of Representatives for legislative districts in the National Capital Region (NCR) | Regional Election Director, NCR |
| 1) Members of the House of Representatives of legislative districts in provinces<br>2) Provincial Officials | 1) Provincial Election Supervisor concerned<br>2) |
| 1) Members of the House of Representatives for legislative districts in cities outside the NCR, which comprise one or more legislative districts<br>2) City Officials of cities with more than one Election Officer's | 1) City Election Officer concerned (for candidates filing for the position of Member of the House of Representatives)<br>2) Copies of the resignation of the Election Officer concerned shall immediately be submitted to the Law Department of the Commission |
| City/Municipal Officials | City/Municipal Election Officer concerned |
| ARMM Governor and Vice-Governor | In any of the offices of the ARMM Regional Election Director |
| Member, Regional Legislative Assembly, ARMM | ARMM Provincial Election Supervisor concerned |

Any Certificate of Candidacy not filed with the correct offices as enumerated above shall not be accepted.

The Certificate of Candidacy shall be filed by the candidate personally or by his duly authorized representative, whose authority shall be in writing, under oath and attached thereto.

No Certificate of Candidacy shall be filed or accepted by mail, electronic mail, telegram or facsimile.

The filing of the Certificate of Candidacy on a substitute candidate, in case of valid substitution, shall be filed in accordance with Sec. 15 hereof.

Sample forms of the Certificate of Candidacy are attached hereto, and are available at the Comelec offices for free. The forms may be photocopied or reproduced, or downloaded from the COMELEC official website (www.comelec.gov.ph).

**SEC. 4. Effect of Filing Certificate of Candidacy.** – Any person holding a public appointive office or position, including active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other officers and employees in government-owned or controlled corporations, shall be considered ipso facto resigned from his office and must vacate the same at the start of the day of the filing of his Certificate of Candidacy.

b) Any person holding an elective office or position shall not be considered resigned upon the filing of his Certificate of Candidacy whether for the same or any other elective office or position.

**SEC. 5. Period for Filing Certificate of Candidacy.** – The Certificate of Candidacy shall be filed on any day from **October 1, 2012 to October 5, 2012**, during office hours (**8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**).

If at 5:00 o'clock p.m. of October 5, 2012, there are still persons attending to the Certificates of Candidacy present inside the offices mentioned in Section 3 hereof, the Presiding Officer shall proceed to completion the receiving of the names of said persons, commendably numbered, and the time of closing. The persons listed shall be called by announcing each name in the order in which they are listed. Any person who is not present when his name is called shall not be allowed to file his Certificate of Candidacy. A Certificate of Candidacy filed in accordance with this procedure shall be stamped received at the time it was actually filed, and entered first on time.

**SEC. 6. Filing of Certificate of Nomination and Acceptance of Official Candidates of a Political Party/ Coalition of Political Parties.** – The Certificate of Nomination and Acceptance (CONA) of the official candidates of the duly registered political party or coalition of political parties shall be, in five (5) legible copies, attached to and filed simultaneously with the Certificate of Candidacy. The CONA shall also be stamped received in the same manner as the Certificate of Candidacy.

The CONA, sample form attached, shall be duly signed and attested to under oath, either by the Party President, Chairman, Secretary-General or any other duly-authorized officer of the duly-registered party, and shall bear the acceptance of the nominee as shown by his signature in the space provided therein.

For this purpose, all duly registered political parties or coalition of political parties shall, not later than **October 1, 2012**, submit to the Law Department the names and specimen signatures of their authorized signatories at their official party nominations.

Any duly registered political party or coalition of political parties shall be allowed to nominate more than the number of candidates required to be voted for one particular office by the voters; provided, that such a situation, all of the nominees shall be stated in the manner by the Commission.

**SEC. 7. Independent Candidate.** – An independent candidate is one who falls in any of the following circumstances:

a) who has not been nominated by a duly registered political party or coalition of political parties or his duly authorized representative;

b) whose CONA has been submitted by a political party or coalition of political parties but duly registered with the Commission;

c) who has not accepted a nomination, or has cancelled his CONA from a duly registered political party or coalition of political parties on or before December 31, 2012;

d) who accepts nominations from more than one duly registered political parties for the same constituency, except in cases of resolutions of said political parties;

e) whose CONA was filed after the last day of filing of Certificates of Candidacy;

f) whose CONA was not filed together with his Certificate of Candidacy;

g) whose CONA was cancelled, withdrawn or substituted by the nominating party within the period for the filing of Certificates of Candidacy;

h) whose CONA was denied due course pursuant to the last paragraph of Sec. 6 hereof.

A candidate who accepts nominations from more than one duly registered political parties shall not be considered as an independent candidate.

**SEC. 8. Ministerial Duty of Receiving and Acknowledging Receipt of Certificates of Candidacy/Nomination and Acceptance; Recording.** – The Receiving Officer duly designated or designated to receive Certificates of Candidacy/Nomination and Acceptance as provided for in Sec. 3 hereof shall have the ministerial duty to receive and acknowledge receipt thereof. Provided that the same are filed in conformity with the formal rules and regulations. He shall stamp every copy of each Certificate with the date and actual time of his receipt and affix his signature thereon.

The Receiving Officer shall enter in a record book, the following data, leaving an space between entries:

a) date and actual time of receipt of the certificate;
b) assigned consecutive number thereof;
c) full name of the candidate;
d) the office for which the candidate is running;
e) the political party or coalition of political parties to which the candidate belongs and/or which nominated him, if any;
f) the number of copies actually received;
g) the name of the duly authorized representative if the certificate is not filed personally by the candidate; and
h) the name of the Receiving Officer.

Without delay, on the last day after the time allowed for the filing of the Certificates of Candidacy, the Receiving Officer shall immediately close the record book by placing a line immediately after the last entry and writing the word "closed". He shall then affix his signature immediately below the word "closed" and indicate the date and exact time of closing.

**SEC. 9. Watchers of Independent Candidates, Political Parties and Accredited Citizens' Arms.** – An independent candidate, political party, accredited citizens' arm and/or registered coalition may designate watchers in accordance with the filing and reception of the Certificates of Candidacy. The watcher, who shall present his appointment as such to the Receiving Officer, shall be allowed to stay within the premises of the commission receiving office and to take notes of the proceedings but without participating in or disturbing official business. Any watcher may report in writing to the Commission any irregularity which may require appropriate action.

Watchers shall be entitled, upon written request, to issues from the Receiving Officer, a copy of the list of those who filed Certificates of Candidacy and their respective positions for which they intend to be elected.

**SEC. 10. Reports of the Certificates of Candidacy Received.** – The Head of the Receiving Office shall, not later than **October 8, 2012**:

a) post in a conspicuous place in the premises of the office, a list of candidates who filed Certificates of Candidacy, arranged according to the position for which they filed their certificates of candidacy and the political party to which they belong, if any; and

b) furnish the Commission, through the Law Department and the Information Technology Department (ITD), a list of candidates who filed Certificates of Candidacy, arranged according to the position for which they filed their certificates of candidacy and the political party to which they belong, if any.

| IMPLEMENTING OFFICE | ELECTIVE POSITION |
|---|---|
| Law Department | Senator |
| For NCR : | |
| a.) Regional Election Director, NCR, concerned | a.) Members of the House of Representatives in the legislative districts in the NCR; and |
| b.) City/Municipal Election Officer concerned | b.) City/Municipal Positions in the NCR |
| For outside NCR : | |
| Provincial Election Supervisor concerned | Members of the House of Representatives for legislative districts and Provincial, City and Municipal Positions |
| For ARMM : | |
| Regional Election Director, ARMM | Governor, Vice-Governor and Members of the Regional Legislative Assembly |

**SEC. 12. Delivery of the Reports on the Certificates of Candidacy Received.** – The following officers shall personally deliver to the offices mentioned in Section 13 hereof, not later than October 10, 2012, the receipt issued, the Certified List of Candidates, CDs, and copies of the Certificates of Candidacy and Nomination and Acceptance:

I. **for NCR :**

a. **Regional Election Director** – For Member of the House of Representatives in the legislative districts in the NCR;

b. **Election Officers concerned** – For city and municipal positions in the NCR.

II. **for outside NCR :**

**Provincial Election Supervisor** – For Member of the House of Representatives and provincial, city and municipal positions.

III. **for ARMM :**

**Regional Election Director for ARMM** – For Governor, Vice-Governor and Members of the Regional Legislative Assembly.

**SEC. 13. Distribution of the Reports on the Certificates of Candidacy Received.** – The receipt issued, Certified List of Candidates, CDs, and copies of the Certificates of Candidacy and Nomination and Acceptance shall be distributed in the following offices:

A. **Law Department** – Receipt issued, Certified List of Candidates, original copy of the Certificates of Candidacy and the original copy of the Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance and one (1) CD.

B. **Election Records and Statistics Department** – Certified List of Candidates, second copy of the Certificates of Candidacy and the Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance and one (1) CD.

C. **Education and Information Department** – Certified List of Candidates, third copy of the Certificates of Candidacy and the Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance.

D. **Clerk of the Commission** – Certified List of Candidates, fourth copy of the Certificates of Candidacy and the Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance.

**SEC. 14. Withdrawal of Certificate of Candidacy.** – Any person who has filed a Certificate of Candidacy may, at any time before election day, withdraw the same and subject to Sec. 15 hereof, file personally a Statement of Withdrawal to cover oath. In the JO-eligible cases, with the office where the Certificate of Candidacy was filed. No Statement of Withdrawal shall be accepted if filed by a person other than the candidate himself or if filed by mail, electronic mail, telegram or facsimile.

The Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisor, or the Election Officer concerned shall, upon receipt of the withdrawal, notify the Law Department by the fastest means of communication, stating the following:

a) full name of the candidate withdrawing;
b) election office concerned;
c) nominating political party or coalition of political parties, if any; and
d) full name of the substitute, if any.

On the same day, the draft communication thereof to the Commission, through the Law Department, four (4) copies of the Statement of Withdrawal, retaining one (1) copy thereof for the file. The Law Department shall, in turn, distribute the copies to the offices/departments concerned as provided for under Sec. 13 hereof.

The filing of a withdrawal of a Certificate of Candidacy shall not affect whatsoever civil, criminal or administrative liabilities a candidate may have incurred.

A person who has withdrawn his Certificate of Candidacy for a position shall not be eligible, whether as a substitute candidate or not, for any other position.

**SEC. 15. Substitution of Candidates in case of death, disqualification or withdrawal of candidate.** – If after the last day for the filing of Certificates of Candidacy, an official candidate of a duly registered political party or coalition of political parties dies, withdraws or is disqualified for any cause, he may be substituted by a candidate belonging to, and nominated by, the same political party for substitute shall be allowed for any independent candidate.

The substitution of a candidate who has withdrawn on or before December 21, 2012 may file his Certificate of Candidacy for the office affected not later than December 31, 2012, so that the name of the substitute shall be reflected on the official ballots.

No substitution due to withdrawal shall be allowed after December 31, 2012.

The substitute for a candidate who died or is disqualified by final judgment, may file his Certificate of Candidacy up to mid-day of election day, provided that the substitute and the substituted have the same surnames.

If the death or disqualification should occur between the day before the election and mid-day of election day, the substitute candidate may file his Certificate of Candidacy with any Board of Election Inspectors or the political subdivision where he is a candidate, or in the case of a candidate for Senator, with the Law Department of the Commission on Elections in Manila, provided that the substitute and the substituted candidate have the same surnames.

**SEC. 16. Effectivity.** – This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

**SEC. 17. Dissemination.** – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and give the widest dissemination possible.

**SO ORDERED.**

SIXTO S. BRILLANTES, JR.
Chairman

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

LUCENITO N. TAGLE
Commissioner

ARMANDO C. VELASCO
Commissioner

ELIAS R. YUSOPH
Commissioner

CHRISTIAN ROBERT S. LIM
Commissioner

Note: All the forms and files available for download on-line at www.comelec.gov.ph and will be distributed free of charge to all COMELEC offices nationwide.

*"Don't grieve for me, for I'm free*
*I'm following the path God laid for me. Lift up your heart and share with me*
*God wanted me now, He set me free."*

# PACITA TANYU

*October 14, 1932 - September 07, 2012*
*peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, TANYU*

She is survived by
**Her Children :** Elizabeth Tan,
Emilia "Bien Bien" Tan Yang & Andrew Mon Lin Yang
Betty Tan Van & Van Heng Toon,
Elena Tan Coyiuto & Peter Coyiuto,
Elton Tan & Carolyn Tan

**Grandchildren :** Siennah Tanyu Yang, Boris Tanyu Van,
Christophe Tanyu Van, Michelle Tanyu Van, Stephanie Coyiuto Tay & Chan Hua Joseph Tay Jr.,
Alexander Peter Tan Coyiuto & Jamielyn Cheng Coyiuto, Sofia Elaine Tanyu Coyiuto,
Samantha Mae Tanyu Coyiuto, Hao-Han Elton Tanyu, Carel Tanyu and Kao-Heng Elton Tanyu

**Great-Grandchildren :** Jacob Theodore Coyiuto Tay,
Alexandre Justin Cheng Coyiuto, Aaron Jaden Cheng Coyiuto and Stefan Joseph Coyiuto Tay

Her remains will be at the Santuario De San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City, on 12 September 2012, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
Daily masses will be held from September 12 to 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Interment will be at 2:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, Monday, 17 September 2012, after the 9:30 a.m. mass at the Santuario De San Antonio Church.

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests for donations to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH).*

# Alonzo Sanchez Tansuche, Jr.

was called home to the Lord on September 9, 2012 at the age of 83

after a brave struggle with a lingering illness.

Alonzo is a retired partner at Sycip Gorres, Velayo and Co.

He is survived by his brothers, **Antonio** (Houston, Texas) and **Dr. Hermani** (St. Clair, Michigan), sisters-in-law, **Erlinda** and **Myrna**, nieces and nephews, **Dr. Melanie** and **Patrick Lawinger** (San Antonio, Texas), **Anthony, Alex, Natalie** and **Eric Lawinger, Melissa** and **Emily Goertz** (Houston, Texas), **Cynthia** and **John Baldwin** (Houston, Texas), **Nicholas** and **Ally Baldwin, Michael Tansuche, Christopher Tansuche** (Michigan), **Rachael T., Jason** and **Charlotte Kupcek** (Fremont, CA).

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at Loyola Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati, from September 11 to 12, 2012.

Interment of ashes will take place in Iloilo City on September 14, 2012.

*"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."* - Joshua 23:14

*IN LOVING MEMORY*
*ON THE*
*SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF*

## RUTH TAN YANG

WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| Most Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila | 5:00 A.M. |
| San Sebastian Parish, Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila | 5:30 A.M. |
| San Jose Parish (Recoleto), E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd. cor. Aurora Blvd., Q.C. | 6:00 A.M. |
| St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 6001 Tindalo St., Pitogo, Makati City | 6:00 A.M. |
| Resurrection of our Lord Parish, E. Duchess Phase 1, BF Homes, Parañaque City | 6:15 A.M. |
| Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Lantana St., Q.C. | 7:00 A.M. |
| Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Mendiola St., Manila | 7:00 A.M. |
| Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Dalisay Library, Parañaque City | 7:00 A.M. |
| Way the Green Parish, Greenhills, San Juan | 7:00 A.M. |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, Quezon City | 7:00 A.M. |
| Christ the King, E. Rodriguez, Quezon City | 7:15 A.M. |
| St. Joseph Shrine, Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City | 7:45 A.M. |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Bacoor, Cavite | 8:00 A.M. |
| Sto. Cristo Parish Church, Sto. Cristo, Manila | 8:00 A.M. |
| Redemptorist de San Andres, Malvar St., Poblacion, Makati City | 12 NOON |
| St. Anthony Shrine, Mauraya St., Sampaloc, Manila | 5:00 P.M. |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, Quezon City | 5:00 P.M. |
| Way the Green Parish Church, Greenhills, San Juan | 5:00 P.M. |
| Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Lantana St., Quezon City | 5:00 P.M. |
| Redemptorist de San Andres, Malvar St., Poblacion, Makati City | 5:00 P.M. |
| Christ the King, E. Rodriguez, Quezon City | 5:00 P.M. |
| Sacred Heart Parish Church, Tagaog, Malabon, MM | 5:00 P.M. |

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • NOTICE OF EVENTS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REMEMBERS
FREE! DON'T DELAY!